THE UK'S BIGGEST REGIONAL GAY LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

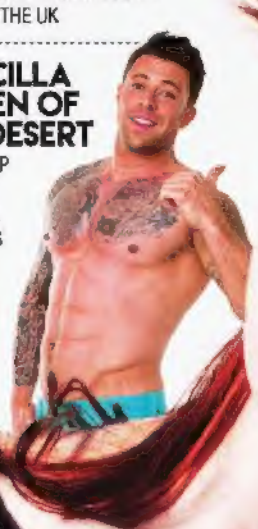
# ZONE

MIDLANDS EDITION

MAY 2016
ISSUE 229

## THE PRIDE ISSUE
EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PRIDE EVENTS AROUND THE UK

## PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT
THE CAMP COMEDY MUSICAL RETURNS



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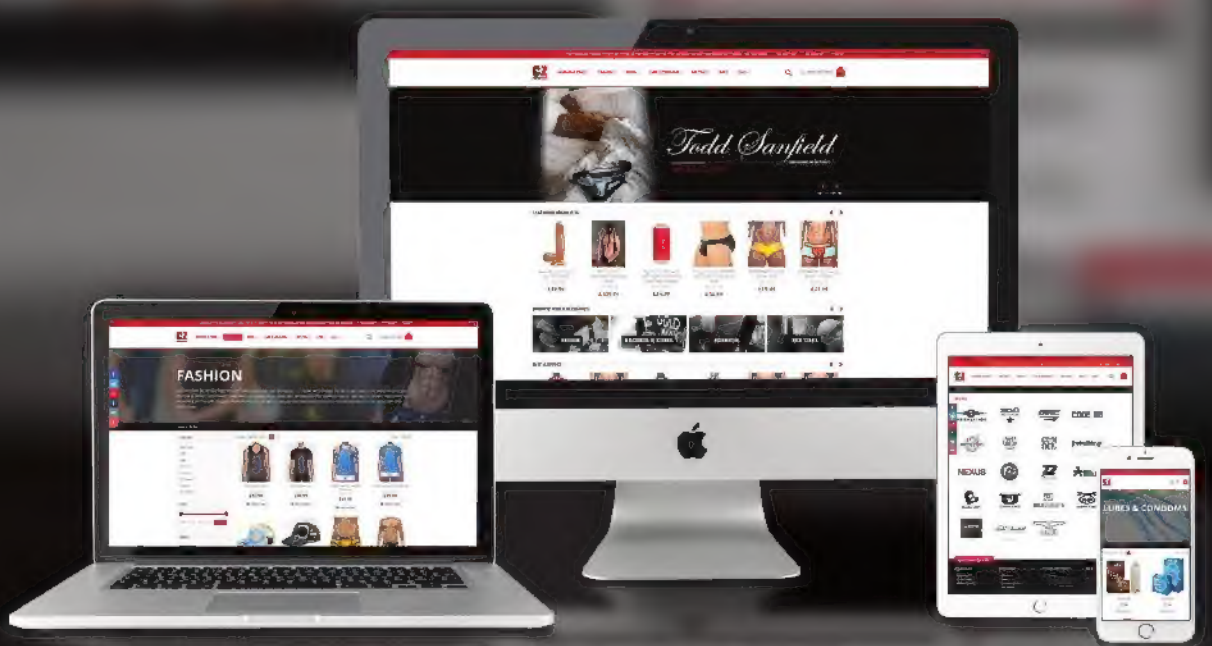


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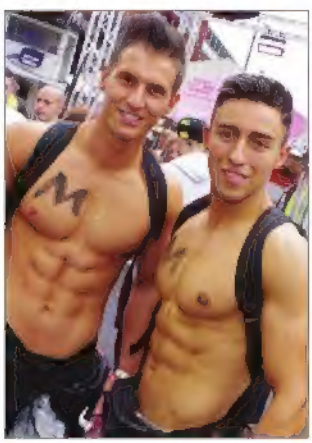

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# PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT

**Back for its second UK road trip, smash-hit musical Priscilla, Queen Of The Desert visits Wolverhampton Grand this month with a brilliant new cast on board. Starring as the show's loveable leading 'gender illusionist' Tick (aka Mitzi Mitosis) is Blue's Duncan James, who gets by with a little help from Simon Green and Adam Bailey as his friends and co-performers, Bernadette and Adam (aka Felicia).**

A zany, off-the-wall and outrageously camp adventure through the Australian outback, Priscilla first won over audiences on screen with Stephan Elliott's 1994 movie starring Hugo Weaving, Guy Pearce and Terence Stamp. It wasn't till 11 years later that it made its first stage outing, showing, appropriately enough, at Sydney's Star City casino. The story remains essentially the same on stage: at its heart is the conflict between absentee father Tick's desire to see his six-year-old son, and his anxiety over what the boy will make of his drag queen dad.

"I think one of the main reasons I took this part is that I really related to Tick," says James. "I have a daughter and I've been through something similar with my own sexuality, so the script really resonated with me. I really wanted to put my own spin on it and play it from a truthful point of view, so I feel very lucky that I got the opportunity to do it."

When Tick's estranged wife Marion (Naomi Slights) invites him out to Alice Springs to meet his son Benji (Oliver Butler/Christopher Dixon), he opts to bring along his performer pals - partly for moral support, and partly to help him put on the best show possible at Marion's casino. Enter the elegant transsexual artiste Bernadette and the hyperactive young Adam/Felicia, with a laugh like Tom Hulce's Amadeus and a sex drive on a Frank-n-Furter scale.

"Felicia is very boisterous and very silly, and maybe a bit obnoxious," says Bailey. "She likes to have fun with people, sometimes at their expense, but I think if I'm doing it right, she should be a bit loveable as well. She's just a bit of a puppy dog."

"Bernadette has had a very successful career at the Les Girls drag club, which is actually a real place in Sydney, but she's now retired," Green explains. "She's based on a real person called Carlotta, who was one of the first people in Australia to have a sex change. She's a big star in her own right, and nowadays she does a lot of speaking

out on political matters."

Also along for the ride is Philip Childs as Bob, the knight with shining car parts who arrives to rescue the broken-down bus. But Priscilla's not the only lady his mechanic's touch could be good for: having fled his demanding wife Cynthia (played with aplomb by Julie Yammanee), Bob might also have the know-how to fix Bernadette's aching heart. Then of course, there are the show-stopping singers Lisa-Marie Holmes, Laura Mansell and Catherine Mort as the fabulous flying Divas, as well as a whole ensemble cast supporting the show, including Wolverhampton's own Richard Astbury, whose previous Grand performances include Coricopat in Cats.

"It's always fun to go home and see friends and family, and for them to see you in a new show," says Astbury. "I've been watching pantomimes at the Grand since I was about six years old, and then I was in MusCom, the musical comedy company. I've also got friends who work there, so I know the theatre very well, but it's been a while since I performed there, although I only live in Birmingham."

Famed for its spectacular visuals, Priscilla features upwards of 500 amazing outfits, ranging from bright green cupcake costumes complete with light-up candle hats, to mop-haired cheerleading uniforms and dark, Disney villain-esque attire donned for a flamboyant funeral. But as any showgirl knows, looking your best can come at a cost: it's not easy being beautiful.

"The headdresses are the hardest thing," says Astbury. "At one point, I'm dressed as an emu with a two foot headdress on, and it's so long that if you tilt your head it carries the weight with you, so your neck muscles are always tensing. As you can imagine, the choreography's quite difficult when you're wearing that along with a basque and heels, so you have to strengthen your body in a different way to anything you've done before."

"I suffer with back problems and I get sciatica down my left leg, so the heels have been really tough for me," says James. "There was a hairy moment the week before the show opened in August when I was rushed to hospital because I couldn't move. It turned out I had a slipped disc, and I had to have an epidural to get me walking again. But those injections are wonderful things, and everything's been great since, touch wood! I think once you get used to doing something repetitively, your body adapts and gets strength in different ways, so now I feel a lot more comfortable and confident doing it."

As if getting used to wearing the outfits wasn't enough, they've also had to learn to throw them on and pull them off in a hurry for the show's lightning-fast costume changes.

"Behind the scenes is like another show in itself," James continues. "Sometimes, we've got to go from being dressed as a man to being in full drag make-up, wig and everything in less than 30 seconds. Sometimes, as with anything, there'll be a malfunction, but I guess that's just live theatre!"

"I've got fifteen costume changes in the show," Green explains. "It's just endless! We travel with four people in our wardrobe department, one of whom is my dresser, and then in each town we have local dressers join as well."

"It's almost choreographed, in a sense," adds Bailey, "so you have to put your arm in one place and your leg in another while people dress you."

Meanwhile, others in the ensemble prefer to work out their own ways of managing the changes.

"I like to find my own rhythm in each venue, so I do everything myself now," says Astbury. "The drag make-up is the hardest aspect of it - you're gluing your eyebrows down and contouring the face as well as doing eyeshadow and mascara. It takes me about 45 minutes to do it."

Add to this wacky wardrobe a giant lipstick, two mirror balls, a coffin, a Kylie doll and some sensational lighting by Nick Richings, and you've got yourself a stylish set-up fit for a queen. Of course, that's before we even get onto the light-up, faux fur-lined bus herself. As tough as performing in the show may be, surrounded by all this, it'd take a tight-lipped sort not to be swept up in the jubilant campness of it all.

"I think the best thing about this production is that the audience can tell how much fun we have," says Bailey. "We all get on really well, and I think that comes through in the performances. The show is absolutely crazy and I'm tired every day, but it's so rewarding and really worth it."

More importantly, there's meaning to the madness. Behind the glitter, feathers and mascara is a message of tolerance, friendship and love. Once a bold story bravely promoting acceptance, Priscilla now stands as a testimony to how far we've come in recent years. It's hard to overstate the cultural shifts we've witnessed since 1994 with regards to LGBT rights, but nevertheless, Priscilla's celebration of individuality continues to resonate with audiences today, some of whom might see in its characters' triumph a reflection of real-world victories for the LGBT community.

"When the film first came out, I remember it being quite out there and edgy," says Green, "but of course, you look at it now and it isn't any more. I also saw the show when it opened in the West End, and I think a lot has changed even since then. I'm amazed at how accepting audiences are nowadays. I think this story really stirs up something profound in them. Some nights it's an absolute riot! I've never before done anything that's so obviously given so much pleasure to an audience."

**Priscilla Queen Of The Desert** shows at the **Wolverhampton Grand Theatre** from **Mon 2 to Sat 7 May 2016.**

# IT'S EUROVISION

The UK's 2016 Eurovision entry, Joe and Jake

**Gay Christmas is once again upon us! Yes, it's time for the Eurovision Song Contest, this year coming from Sweden. Midlands Zone's resident Eurovision expert, Dean Asker, makes a welcome return to tell us all about this year's event...**

**Thanks to Mans Zelmerlow and the stickman video behind him (not to mention those leather trousers), the musical circus is making its way to Stockholm. It's the sixth time the nation that gave us ABBA, the best known Eurovision winners ever, has hosted the competition.**

Eurovision's most successful country is, of course, Ireland, with seven wins. This year, former Westlife star Nicky Byrne will be singing the poppy Sunlight, hoping to get the Emerald Isle out of the semi-finals (what do you mean, you didn't know there were semi-finals?!). Calling in the services of an established name is, however, no guarantee of success. Boyband Blue did pretty well for the UK in 2011, but the scoreboard well and truly failed to set light when we recently sent '80s star Bonnie Tyler (never heard of her? Ask your mother...) and '60s crooner Engelbert Humperdinck (never heard of him? Ask your grandmother...).

Since 2011, the UK public has had no involvement in choosing our song, and, with the exception of the aforementioned Blue, we've not come higher than 17th. Last year, Electro Velvet sang the 1920s-inspired number Still In Love With You, amassing a whopping five points. The BBC, which is responsible for our entry, decided enough was enough, and set about organising the biggest song search ever.

So on a cold Friday night in early March, together with hundreds of Eurofans, I made

my way to Kentish Town to see six acts battle it out. The British public got to vote, and the winning song, You're Not Alone, is performed by youthful male duo Joe and Jake, who have form appearing on The Voice. Joe and Jake can certainly sing, and it's a fairly decent tune, so fingers crossed the boys can restore some much-needed British pride to our Eurovision record.

Being one of the biggest financial contributors to the Contest means the UK automatically qualifies for the final, by which time two semi-finals will have whittled the field of 43 countries down to 26. So who's likely to be vying to spoil our Eurovision dreams of a good placing?

Well, the favourite is Russia. Sergey Lazarev is a big, big star across all of the former Soviet states, and a good-looking guy to boot. His song, You Are The Only One, is a strong, uptempo Eurostomper, and following their second place in 2015, it's obvious Russia are in it to win it. Russia isn't exactly known for its liberal attitude towards homosexuality, so it will be very interesting to see if Sergey will be met with the same level of booing previous Russian singers have recently received from the primarily gay fans in the arena.

Also in contention is Australia with Dami Im and Sound Of Silence. The Aussies took part for the first time last year in what was meant to be a one-off, as a way of marking the Contest's 60th edition, but they enjoyed themselves so much they're back again. That said, I don't envy Eurovision fans from Down Under - because of the time difference, they'll be watching the show at the ridiculous hour of 5am!

My personal favourites include No Degree Of Separation, a beautiful mid-tempo ballad from Italy's Francesca Michielin; Latvia's Heartbeat, a very contemporary song with an electro RnB vibe from male performer Justs; and Alter Ego, a piece of fabulous pop rock by Cypriot band Minus One. It's co-written by Swedish composer Thomas G:Son, who also gave us Loreen's Euphoria, which took the crown in 2012 and is, quite possibly, the best Eurovision song ever. Talking of Sweden, their hopes rest on 17-year-old Frans with If I Were Sorry, which has the same vibe as Mike Skinner's The Streets. Who says Eurovision isn't (relatively) current?

If you're hoping for some Eurocheese, it's a bit thin on the ground, as a lot of the entries are, shock horror, pretty darn credible. But don't fear - there are a few traditional Eurosongs to look out for. Austria has sent Zoe, with a slightly childlike ditty in French, Loin d'ici - once you've heard it, you'll love it. Belarus' Ivan gives us Help You Fly, a rock anthem which, rumour has it, he will perform naked with two wolves. Where else would you see it?

And, last and definitely least, look out for 51-year-old Turkish performer Sehrat, who'll be singing I Didn't Know for, of course, San Marino. I'm not making this up. It gets better. The song was originally submitted to be performed as a ballad. It was awful. But a disco version was also released and met with far more (potentially ironic) enthusiasm. So the ballad version got ditched, and now Sehrat will be giving us his 1970s disco moves. If you think of The X Factor's Wagner singing Gloria Gaynor's I Will Survive, you'll get the idea. It could be amazing.

This year also signals a change in the voting procedure. I'd need a good half an hour to explain it to you properly, but the upshot is the winner will not be known until the final minutes of the Contest, making it much more exciting.

So there you have it. To me, the songs in this year's contest are far better than the past two years, and despite Russia's strong chances, it may throw up a surprise winner. So grab a flag, make sure you've got lots of nibbles and drinkies, and have yourself a fantastic Europarty. After 60 years Eurovision's still got it!

## FAVOURITES TO WIN

**So you've read about Dean's 'ones to watch out for' in 2016's Eurovision Song Contest, but what do the bookies think? We've looked at the odds for the top five favourites and listed them below. All odds are correct at the time of going to print...**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1st | Russia | 15/8 |
| 2nd | France | 11/4 |
| 3rd | Sweden | 10/1 |
| 4th | Australia | 12/1 |
| 5th | Malta | 18/1 |

**The first Eurovision Song Contest semi-final takes place on Tuesday 10 May, the second on Thursday the 12th.**
**The grand final shows on BBC One on Saturday 14 May. Enjoy!**

# Massive ticket surge for 20th Birmingham Pride following line-up release, organisers reveal

**Organisers of Birmingham Pride have revealed that advance ticket sales for this year's festival have surged by more than 25% compared to the same period last year.**

Tickets have been selling particularly well for the event since the full line-up was revealed a few weeks ago.

Pride Festival Director Lawrence Barton commented: "We're very humbled by everyone's support this year. It's absolutely staggering that the ticket sales for the festival are more than 25% up over last year. It's definitely the most diverse and exciting line-up of artists we've ever billed. There's definitely something for everyone to enjoy. "

The gay festival, which provides a £20million boost to the city's leisure and tourism sector, will this year feature over 100 performers and DJs, including headliners Katy B, DJ Fresh, Fleur East and Lawson, as well as '80s legends Andy Bell from Erasure and Lisa Stansfield.

The festival takes place in the city over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend of Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 May.

This year's Carnival Parade, which kicks off the event and sets out from Victoria Square at midday on Saturday 28 May, is adopting Generation Of Pride as its theme. This will be celebrating the hard-fought battles and pivotal achievements of the LGBT community over the last 20 years, both locally and nationally.

"Preparations for Pride are now in full swing," continues Festival Director Lawrence Barton. "The buzz surrounding the two-day event has been incredible, with people excited about taking part in the Carnival Parade and seeing some big-name acts on our main stage."

Birmingham Pride also features a dance arena, cabaret marquee, funfair and in addition to a host of community stalls and refreshments.

Discounted Advance Tickets for the festival, which is located in Birmingham's Gay Village in the Southside area of the city, are available online from www.birminghampride.com. Children under five get free admission when accompanied by an adult.

## Coventry Pride secures £20,000 sponsorship

**Organisers of Coventry Pride have announced that they have secured sponsorship funding of £20,000.**

The sponsorship is in the form of a partnership between Coventry's award-winning universities, Coventry University and the University of Warwick. Both will contribute £10,000 to Coventry Pride and, in partnership, will be one of the main sponsors of the event.

Paul Desson-Baxter, Chair of Coventry Pride, commented: "Securing this sponsorship means that we are this year able to hold the Pride festival that the LGBT community of Coventry want. Having consulted widely via regular public meetings, myself and the trustees of Coventry Pride, along with the LGBT community, will be able to use this as a foundation to plan a bigger and better Pride for next year and the years to come, building on the success of last year's Pride. This level of funding shows the commitment that both universities have to the diversity and wellbeing of not only their students but the communities in which they live."

Ian Dunn, deputy vice-chancellor for student experience at Coventry University, said: "The role our university plays in the local community is hugely important to us, and likewise we recognise the significant contribution that very same community makes in welcoming and supporting our vibrant and diverse student population. We're delighted to be supporting Coventry Pride and the work it does to promote tolerance and inclusion in this fantastic city, which so many of our students and staff call home."

Darren Wallis, chair of the University of Warwick's Equality & Diversity Network, said: "At the University of Warwick we understand that simply having diversity in our work force and student body is not enough. We must create an inclusive environment where all people can contribute and reach their full potential. That environment includes the city of Coventry, as much of our campus is part of the city and many of our staff and students also live in Coventry. So we're delighted to be able to support Coventry Pride and its impact on our community."

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# IDAHOT film screening in Shrewsbury

**To mark this year's International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia & Transphobia (IDAHOT), Shropshire Rainbow Film Festival is hosting a Shrewsbury screening of the documentary This Is Gay Propaganda: LGBT Rights & The War In Ukraine.**

IDAHOT is celebrated on Tuesday 17 May and is an annual worldwide event. It has two main aims - to raise awareness of LGBT rights violations and to stimulate interest in LGBT rights work worldwide.

For the past two years, a Gay Propaganda Law has been in force in Russian-dominated eastern Ukraine and Crimea. This Is Gay Propaganda: LGBT Rights & The War In Ukraine follows several LGBTs and feminists who, after horrific experiences at the hands of Kremlin-funded militias, have fled eastern Ukraine for the relative safety of a shelter in Kyiv. The documentary also investigates the rise of hate crimes and nationalist fervour in central Ukraine, and the creative resistance of the LGBT activists as they organise a Pride Day.

The screening takes place at The Gateway Education & Arts Centre on Tuesday 17 May at 8pm.

# UKIP candidate calls for rainbow flag to be flown

**UKIP's candidate for Sedgley, Shaun Keasey, has called on Dudley Council to show its support for the borough's LGBT communities by flying the Pride flag on this year's International Day Against Homophobia (Tuesday 17 May).**

Commenting, Shaun said: "Even now, in 2016, the level of homophobia around the world is unacceptable. Awful atrocities against gay people are shown daily on our televisions, and suicide rates amongst young gay men are some of the highest. We must show that being gay is totally normal, and that hatred has no place in our towns.

"Many UK towns and cities, including Wolverhampton and Birmingham, already display the flag every year. Dudley has an opportunity to demonstrate its support, and I hope to see the Pride flag flying proudly above Dudley Town Hall and in my home town of Sedgley on May the 17th."

UKIP MEP and Sedgley councillor Bill Etheridge endorses the idea of flying the Pride flag to promote the ideals of equality.

He said: "I am 100% in support of Shaun."

# Isle of Man approves same-sex marriage

**The Isle of Man has approved same-sex marriage - meaning Northern Ireland is set to be the last place in the British Isles without marriage equality.**

PinkNews reports: 'As a crown dependency, the Isle of Man maintains autonomy from the UK on issues such as marriage.

'It was the last part of these islands to legalise homosexuality in 1992 - but a vote today confirmed it won't be the last to introduce same-sex marriage.

'The Manx Legislative Council today passed its Marriage and Civil Partnership (Amendment) Bill - with six votes in favour and three against.

'The bill amends marriage laws to allow same-sex couples to tie the knot, as they can in Scotland, England, Wales and the Republic of Ireland.

'Same-sex marriage proposals have been greenlit in Jersey and Guernsey - meaning that Northern Ireland is the only remaining part of these islands where marriage equality continues to be blocked.

'The chief minister of the Isle of Man, Alan Bell, recently opened up about his sexuality.

'He said: "People know that I'm gay. I've never made a secret of it, but no one has ever asked me."

'Mr Bell also opened up about the 'dark days' on the Isle of Man during the '80s and '90s, when deeply homophobic comments were made by politicians arguing homosexuality should remain a criminal offence - often while he was in the chamber.

'He said: "It was disgusting. I felt dirty at the end of it. I felt for a period ashamed to be Manx because of the debate that was going around."'

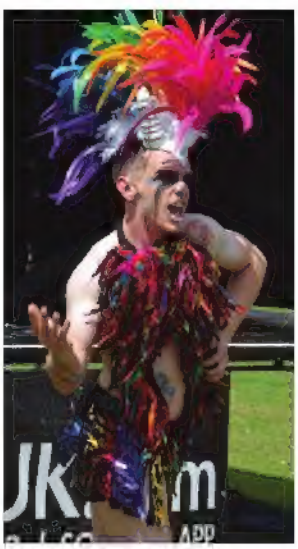
# Warwickshire Pride organisers announce royal theme for 2016

**Warwickshire Pride will this year take a royal theme to celebrate HM The Queen's 90th birthday.**

The theme was determined via a poll of followers on Twitter and Facebook.

Commenting on the news, Daniel Browne, Chairman of Push Projects LGBTQ Youth Support, the charity behind the event, said: "Warwickshire Pride is a fantastic, positive celebration of LGBT-plus culture and diversity. This year we're thrilled to reveal a royal theme after consulting with the community. It seems apt that a Pride event taking place in a royal town during the Queen's 90th birthday year should have a royal theme.

"Our Pride team is now busy organising something truly special and unique for the whole community to enjoy. We'll have our usual mix of stalls and live entertainment, plus a family area. New additions this year include our first dog show and a Mad Hatter's Tea Party for children, hosted by the Queen of Hearts. We're also proud to be working in partnership with the Royal Pump Room Gardens to host a fabulous royal-themed after-party."



Warwickshire Pride takes place on Saturday 20 August, is free to attend and attracts 5,000 visitors each year. For more information, visit www.warwickshirepride.co.uk or email warwickshirepride@live.co.uk

## Stoke-on-Trent's health professionals learn about transgender issues

**Local health professionals brushed up their understanding of transgender issues at a recent conference organised by the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Partnership NHS Trust Sexual Health team. The conference was described by attendees as 'inspiring' and 'a fantastic insight into trans issues'.**

Hosted by the Gender Identity Research & Education Society (GIRES), the UK's leading charity supporting Transgender communities, the conference was held at Staffordshire University for professionals from the Partnership Trust's Sexual Health and Counselling teams, Stoke-on-Trent City Council and Staffordshire University.

Andrew Horton, HIV Prevention Lead for the Partnership Trust, who arranged the conference, commented: "The request for training came from one of our sessional workers, who asked for additional support based on the increase in the number of trans young people attending Galaxy, our youth LGBT support group. Having completed training with GIRES myself, and being inspired by them, I knew that they were able to deliver everything that was needed to educate Stoke-on-Trent's health professionals on trans issues."

Topics covered included gender variance and transition, medical care, legal protections, discrimination and supporting families. Guest speaker Lana discussed her experience as a trans woman and the challenges she faced, both in healthcare and in wider society.

## Trade Sexual Health in search of life stories from LGBT people

**If you identify as LGBT and live in Rutland, Trade Sexual Health is looking to hear your stories about what it's like to live in the area.**

Trade is a health charity working with the LGBT communities of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. It offers a range of free and confidential support and advice services around sexual health and HIV information.

As an example of the kind of contribution it's looking for, Trade has provided this submission from one of its volunteers, Will: "So being a rural LGBT individual, you may not have the biggest network of people like you in your area, but what you do have is time to grow. This allows you not to rush into being the person you want to be, but take steps to become 'you', whatever or whoever 'you' is. Just know that Rutland is a beautiful place to live in and will give you the foundations for the rest of your life. I'm Will, a rural gay, and thank God I've had time to realise who I want to be, otherwise I think I would've burned out by now!"

# Birmingham LGBT achieves Investors In People Silver accreditation

**Birmingham LGBT has been awarded Silver status by national quality accreditation body Investors in People (IIP)**

The status is held by only a small percentage of organisations throughout the country

It was achieved after the charity demonstrated exceptional commitment to its people through the completion of an additional 76 evidence requirements beyond the basic standard, which aims to help businesses improve performance through the effective management and development of their teams

During the assessment process, there was good evidence to show that people are a valued asset to the business.

Birmingham LGBT was seen to have the following key strengths. An engaged and enthusiastic team, Staff involvement and consultation, Embedded values and social responsibility, Commitment to equality and diversity, Innovative and flexible learning available to everyone Strong sense of individual responsibility and leadership, Employee/volunteer pride in working for the organisation, Respect and trust for the leadership, A Board with a range of relevant and supportive skills.

Investors In People practitioner Susan Long commented "I would like to congratulate the team at Birmingham LGBT for continuing to meet the high standards of Investors In People and extending their achievement to Silver award. This is especially laudable as the organisation has undergone significant change and growth in the past 12 months. The openness and honesty of the interviewees made the process an interesting and enjoyable experience, for which I'm most grateful

People are exceptionally proud of working for Birmingham LGBT, There is a strong sense of engagement and ownership "

Steph Keeble Director of Birmingham LGBT, added "Birmingham LGBT continues to be committed to serving the LGBT community in Birmingham and beyond I am extremely proud of our achievements and delighted that the team at Birmingham LGBT has been recognised via the Investors In People silver accolade "

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Time: 3pm - 5pm
Place: 33 New Bond Street, Leicester LE1 4RQ
Splash Spa & Leisure
Day: Thursdays
Time: 3pm - 6pm
Place: 61 Bedford Street Leicester LE1 3JR
TRADE
You can also check out Trade Sexual Health:
www.tradesexualhealth.com
Online clinics are available
www.leicestersexualhealth.nhs.uk

# Richie Anderson

**Radio presenter for BBC WM 95.6**

**Born:** City Road Hospital, Smethwick

**Star sign:** Libra

**Age:** 28

## About Richie

**Where did you grow up?**

I grew up in the 'concrete jungle' of Smethwick (where dreams are made of). That's not slang, it's what it's called.

**Single or attached?**

Very happily attached for three-and-a-half years.

**What makes you happy?**

Travelling the world and seeing new places. Right now I'm doing this interview from Barcelona, on a sun terrace overlooking La Rambla!

**What makes you sad?**

Bullying – of all kinds. It's unnecessary and very sad.

**If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?**

I wish I could handle my drink a little bit better. I don't encourage excessive drinking, but it would be nice to be able to have more than two pints before I'm sent home.

**What's been the most embarrassing thing you've done in your life?**

There are a lot! When I first started out in radio a long time ago, I was interviewing a politician. It went well and then, at the end, he politely told me live on air that I'd been calling him by the wrong name the whole way through! Then there was the time I was live on air for the BBC Music Awards and had some time to fill, before Little Mix could chat to me, so I started singing Black Magic. Perrie came along when I was mid-verse and looked like she wanted to press a panic alarm.

**Now that same-sex marriage has been legalised, would you consider getting married?**

Who knows? I'm pleased that everyone has the same rights to marriage now and that the option is there.

## Coming Out

**When did you first know you were gay?**

It was only towards the end of university that I was honest with myself and really knew. When I look back, I think I always knew.

**When did you come out?**

After university, in my early 20s.

**What was school like for you as a gay teenager?**

I wasn't out at school, but I went to an open-minded Black Country school, so I hope that if I had been, it wouldn't have been a problem. Everyone was from different backgrounds and ethnicities. I was on the football and athletics teams. I remember it being a really happy time. The only problem was I had to wear the ugliest maroon blazer. I looked like a purple Quality Street with Alan Carr's teeth.

**Who was the first person you told you were gay, and what was their reaction?**

My best friend Grant. I told him in Nandos in Dudley, I believe I told him while I was having a double chick wrap. Medium. He's straight and he was great about it. We've been mates since we were about four and went to playgroup together.

**What would you say to a youngster trying to come to terms with their own sexuality?**

Be yourself and handle life at your own pace. In 2016 there should not be hate and rejection, but take your time and don't worry.

## Your Career

**When you were younger, what did you want to be?**

When I was a kid, I watched Rocky and wanted to be a boxer. Then I wanted to be an ice cream man! It was only when I went to uni that I decided I wanted to do radio.

**How and when did you first get into radio?**

When I left university I did a week's work experience at BBC WM. Six years later, I'm still privileged to be here, presenting on BBC local radio. It was the station I grew up listening to with my family, so it means a lot to me.

**What are the highlights of working in radio?**

For me, it's all about interacting with different people – whether it's pop stars or politicians, but especially our listeners. They're always ringing in with tales of their day, or turning up when we're out and about. I'm really looking forward to meeting everyone when we're broadcasting live from Pride on 28 May from midday.

**What's been the best moment of your career so far?**

Interviewing David Beckham at the Sports Personality Of The Year Awards in Birmingham. I've never been so nervous! I'm a massive West Brom fan and he was in between contracts at the time, so I tried to convince him to sign for West Brom. He laughed and said, 'No. It's too cold up here for me'. I don't hold it against him.

**You're going to be presenting a Birmingham Pride special for BBC Radio WM. Are you excited about Pride?**

Yes! Birmingham Pride is the biggest in the country, and there are so many great acts. The parade is going to be brilliant.

**What can listeners expect from the feature?**

Our show is going to be big and loud. I always broadcast with lots of energy, brilliant music and creativity. If you can't get to Pride this year, we want our show to be the next best thing. And if you're there, we want lots of people to be involved. Just look for the shouty man with the big teeth and the BBC WM banners.

**And when can we hear it?**

Saturday 28 May from midday.

**Where would you like to see yourself in the next five years?**

I want to keep doing more at BBC WM really. I'm passionate about the station. I love doing live shows on the road, like I'll be doing at Pride.

## Gay Scene

**How long have you been frequenting the Midlands gay scene?**

I first went out when I came out in my early 20s. I don't go out as much these days, but it's brilliant that we have such a strong gay scene here now.

**What's been your fondest memory of the gay scene?**

The music and atmosphere. It's so inclusive. There's a good night for everyone.

## Time Out

**Where do you like to go on a night out?**

I love drinks at The Botanist on Temple Street. But I'm a Smethwick lad and you can't beat a beer down the Bear Tavern.

**What do you do to relax?**

Spend time with family, friends and my partner. I like

to go to the gym, but I end up spending most of my time there on Twitter, so it's probably my thumbs that get the best work out.

**What do you enjoy on telly?**

I love gritty dramas - Happy Valley, The Missing, Broadchurch. And Stacey Dooley's BBC Three documentaries are fascinating. But sometimes you can't beat a bit of Geordie Shore or Ex On The Beach - they're my guilty pleasures.

**What was the last album or track you bought?**

Drake's new track, One Dance.

**Which one website do you spend the most time on?**

Twitter, @richie_anderson_fol ow me, tweet me - yes I'm begging you for a follow!

**Which type of holiday do you prefer?**

Beach and sun and beach and sun!

## Quickfire

**Who's your favourite actor?**

Leonardo DiCaprio. Never done a bad film.

**What's your favourite book?**

Neil Warnock's autobiography.

**Half empty or half full?**

Half full.

**What's your favourite food?**

Anything Mexican.

**And how about your favourite drink?**

Right now, a glass of cold sangria because I'm in Spain.

**Madonna or Lady Gaga?**

Neither unfortunately!

**If you could take a selfie with one person, alive or dead, who would it be?**

Prince.

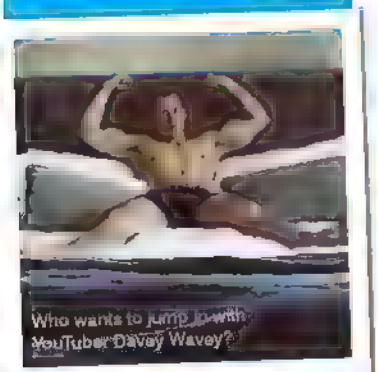
**Tune in on Saturday 28 May from midday, when Richie will be hosting a special show live from Birmingham Pride.**

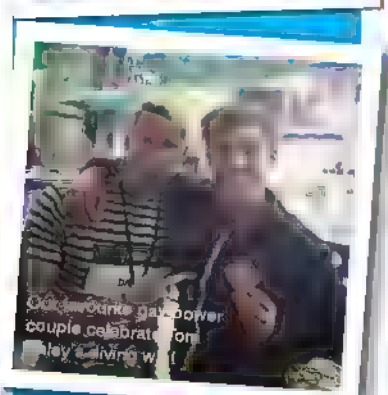
# THE VIRAL ROUND UP

## HERE'S WHAT WE VE BEEN LOOKING AT ONLINE...

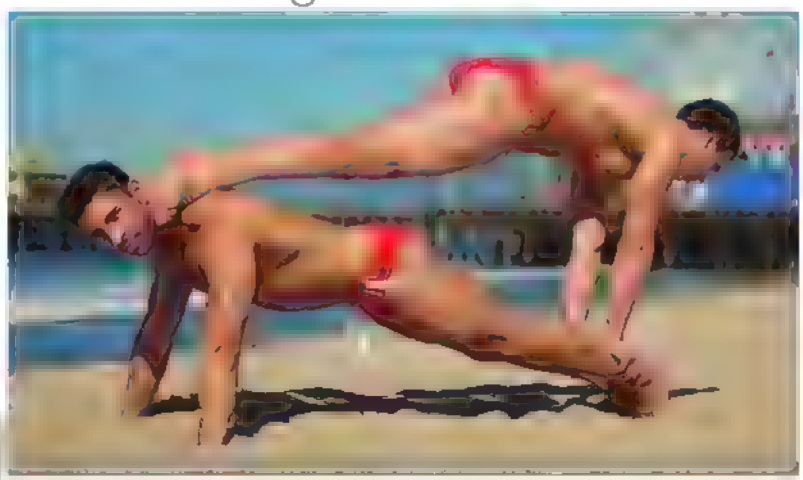
**We all do it - spend hours on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. Often, we're distracted from what we should be doing by cat videos and funny pranks - or by something feelgood that's been shared so much on the net it's officially classed as 'viral'. Well, here are some of Midlands Zone's favourites from the past month!**

### CELEB SNAPS! OUR FAVOURITE PICTURES FROM INSTAGRAM...



### SMOKING HOT YouTubers work out on the beach in parody of Rihanna song Work...



**Three of our (many) favourite things here at Midlands Zone have been combined into one smoking-hot video (and we can't get enough of it!) - Sun, hot guys and Rihanna.**
That s right - may we present to you YouTube sensation Bryan Hawn appearing with his fellow fit ness-model pal Brad Jan in this mouthwatering parody of Rihanna's h t song, Work. The pair get all up in your face whilst working out on the beach, each wearing nothing but a pair of sexy, red Andrew Christian skimpy swimmers. If this doesn't make you lust for Bryan, Brad and the glories of summertime, we don t know what will. Watch (and drool) here: youtu.be/edPh7u7C0rM

### Gay guy's straight friend READS OUT HIS GRINDR MESSAGES in hilarious video...

**For many, the dating app Grindr is the go-to app for, you know, hook-ups and stuff...**
You find a guy send him a mes sage and hope for a reply But if you were to give your phone to your stra ght best friend and let them read the messages, how do you think it would go? Well South African YouTuber Jason Frazer d d just that, letting his best mate Jonty read out some of the mes sages he received with h larious results. youtu.be/vO4IL2Mv3-o

# NEW SERVICES FOR THE LGBT COMMUNITY

Birmingham LGBT

## SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICE

Culturally specific sexual health services for LGBT communities. Services include:

- Free condoms, lube & gloves
- Free HIV Rapid testing

Email: sexualhealth@blgbt.org

**Here to support, not to judge!**

## LIVING WELL

The programme aims at improving the well being and resilience of LGBT individuals through workshops, courses, events and one to one support. Full details of the events programme and how to access one-to-one support are available on our website

## AGEING BETTER

Ageing Better is an exciting new initiative which aims to help older people become more involved in their local communities, have a voice in service provision, set up their own networks and activities and to reduce social isolation.

## SPORTS

Activate offers **FREE** drop in sessions and events, supports existing LGBT sports clubs and helps set up new ones. Recent classes and events include yoga, boxercise, hula hooping, line dancing, table tennis, walking and cycling. Contact us and find the activity that fits with your life and goals

## OTHER SERVICES AVAILABLE, AND PROGRAMMES INCLUDE

LGBT Domestic Violence, LGBT ISVA, Counselling & Psychotherapy, Peer Mentoring, Arts & Heritage Programmes & Volunteering

## CONTACT US FOR MORE DETAILS

**www.birminghamlgbt.org.uk**

T 0121 643 0821 E hello@blgbt.org

Birmingham LGBT Centre, 38/40 Holloway Circus, Birmingham B1 1EQ

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BIRMINGHAM pride

2016 THEME: A GENERATION OF PRIDE

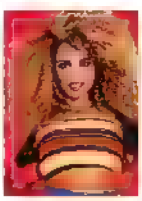
CELEBRATING OUR 20TH YEAR #PRIDE20

# PRIDE IN THE MIDLANDS: 11 LGBT festivals in 2016

## Birmingham Pride

**Saturday 28 & Sunday 29 May - Birmingham Gay Village**
**www.birminghampride.com**

Birmingham Pride is the biggest LGBT festival in the Midlands and kick starts the UK's ever-growing Pride season. Taking place over the May Spring Bank Holiday weekend, the 2016 celebration will be the city's 20th Pride event. This year sees over 100 acts and DJs making contributions across the two days. Performers announced include Erasure's Andy Bell, Katy B, Lisa Stansfield, Fleur East, Liberty X, DJ Fresh, Will.i.am and The DE Experience. Check out the official 68-page Birmingham Pride Guide in the centre of this issue of Midlands Zone.



## Gloucestershire Pride

**Saturday 11 June - Gloucester Park**
**www.glospride.org.uk**

As well as hosting a number of events throughout the year to promote LGBT awareness in the area, Gloucestershire also hosts its own annual parade and festival every June. This year is no different, with a colourful procession starting at Gloucester's Shire Hall and eventually concluding at Gloucester Park. This is where the fun really begins, with festivalgoers able to enjoy performances by, among others, '80s pop goddess Sonia and X Factor star Lloyd Daniels. There's also a cabaret stage, dance tent and family zone. And if that's not enough, head to The Station Hotel from 7pm for the Pride2 after-party!

## Coventry Pride

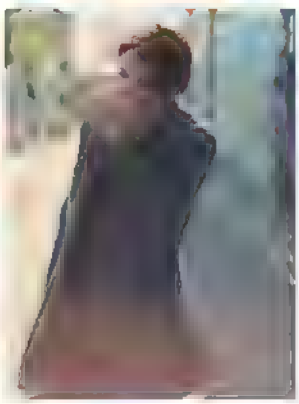
**Saturday 18 & Sunday 19 June - Fargo Village**
**www.coventrypride.org.uk**

Coventry Pride returns for its second year, this time boosted by a £20,000 sponsorship from Coventry University and the University of Warwick. The event once again takes place at Fargo Village. It will feature not only a market hall with plenty of stalls to peruse but also a number of entertainment stages showcasing music, comedy, cabaret and more. There'll also be various street food vendors and bars to ensure visitors stay energised and refreshed throughout the weekend.

## L Fest

**Friday 15 - Monday 18 July - Uttoxeter Racecourse**
**www.lfest.co.uk**

L Fest is the UK's biggest lesbian festival, hosted at Uttoxeter Racecourse every July and featuring a wide range of entertainment. Whether it's live music, cinema, arts, crafts or literature that tickles your fancy, there really is more than enough to keep you busy. Artists announced for this year include Heather Peace, Republica lead singer Saffron and Eva Lesbias. The event is also very welcoming of families, with free tickets for kids under 16. If you're a solo festival-goer, L Fest is a great place to make new friends too.



## Stoke-on-Trent Pride

**Saturday 16 July - Northwood Park**
**www.stokeontrentpride.org.uk**

July sees the people of The Potteries showing just how out 'n' proud they are, turning Hanley's Northwood Park into a hub of all things LGBT. As usual the event will feature music stages, community stalls, food vendors and bars, ensuring Stoke-on-Trent Pride is a vibrant, rainbow-coloured, fun-filled day out.

## Chesterfield Pride

**Sunday 24 July - Queen's Park**
**www.chesterfieldpride.co.uk**

With the first ever Chesterfield Pride having been washed out last year, we've got all our fingers crossed for better weather this time round as the event returns to Queen's Park. Come rain or shine, expect a great day of music and fun to celebrate LGBT life.

## Nottinghamshire Pride

**Saturday 30 July - Castle Gate**
**nottinghamshirepride.co.uk**

After having been scaled back in recent years, things are definitely on the up for Nottinghamshire Pride - the festival has now been given charity status. The event returns to Castle Gate in July and offers a whole load of family-friendly entertainment to enjoy.

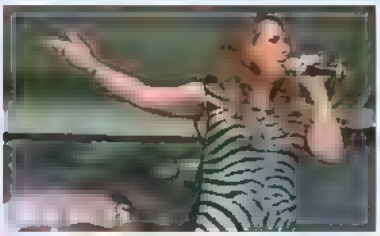
## Family Pride

**Friday 5 - Monday 8 August - Barnswood Scout Camp**
**www.familypridеuk.co.uk**

This summer's festival will see families with LGBT parents from across the UK coming together for a full weekend of camping and fun in a beautiful countryside location in Leek, Staffordshire.
A full programme of activities has already been announced by the organisers, with an Animal Corner, pizza making, science experiments, pottery classes, circus skills, a treasure hunt, a sports day, storytelling, fancy dress and a Family Pride's Got Talent event all set to feature. There's also a whole host of live music for everyone to enjoy.

SATURDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER VICTORIA PARK, LEICESTER

LEICESTER PRIDE 2016



FIRST ACTS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN JUNE

LEICESTER PRIDE

# Masquerade Ball

TWO HEADLINE ACTS TO BE ANNOUNCED THIS MONTH

SUNDAY 28TH AUGUST CITY ROOMS, LEICESTER

prideball@leicesterpride.com 0843 289 2840

## Warwickshire Pride

**Saturday 20 August - Pump Room Gardens**
**www.warwickshirepride.co.uk**

Returning to Pump Room Gardens in Royal Leamington Spa, Warwickshire Pride this year adopts the theme A Right Royal Pride. Offering a fun-filled day of entertainment, the royal shindig features The Voice's Jordan Gray, Bradley Hunt, Ruder Than U, Twisted Rio and more. There's even a Pride's Got Talent contest, with the winner performing live at Pride!

## Walsall Pride

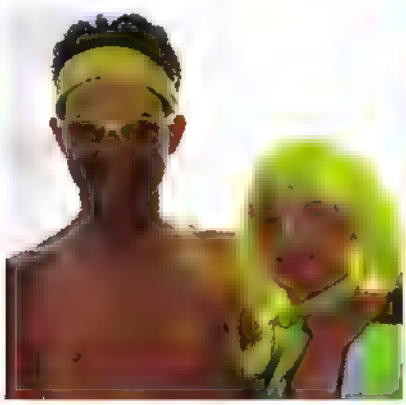
**Saturday 27 August - Gallery Square**
**www.walsallpride.org**

Taking place at Gallery Square (and beyond), this celebration of equality, diversity and all things rainbow-coloured in the town of Walsall features a main stage, cabaret stage and a big after-party at the nearby Lion Bar & Club. If you can't wait for August, Walsall Pride's Summer Ball takes place on Friday 1 July at Arbor Lights restaurant, with entertainment from Tanya Hyde and Sandra. Tickets are £35 and include a three-course meal and an after-party at The Lion Bar & Club.

## Leicester Pride

**Saturday 3 September - Victoria Park**
**www.leicesterpride.com**

Although there's so far been no announcement of acts for this year's Leicester Pride, we're nonetheless looking forward to the late-summer festival of fun. Coming second in the Midlands Zone Readers' Awards 2016 for Best Midlands Pride Event, the Victoria Park-based get-together features a main stage, a dance arena, a funfair, community stalls and much more besides – including a dazzling parade that sweeps through the city centre en route to the party in the park. See you there!



Walsall Pride

Registered Charity Number: 1161574

# 4th Annual PRIDE BALL

**Friday 1st July 2016 7:30PM**

PERFORMANCES BY:

## SANDRA & TANYA HYDE

Tickets £35 per person To include:
a 3 course meal, entertainment and after party
at The Lion bar & club

**Tickets and Information 01922 613361**
**www.walsallpride.org**

**Hosted at Arbor Lights,** Lichfield Street, Walsall, WS1 1SY

Walsall Pride

**Main Stage**
**Cabaret Marquee**
**Market Stalls - Fair Rides**

## SATURDAY 27TH AUGUST 2016

**11am August Bank Holiday - Gallery Square, Walsall**

Arbor Lights BAR & RESTAURANT

ZONE

THE RED LION Walsall

The Lion Bar & Club

# PRIDES FURTHER AFIELD
## Across the UK & abroad

### XXL Bear Pride

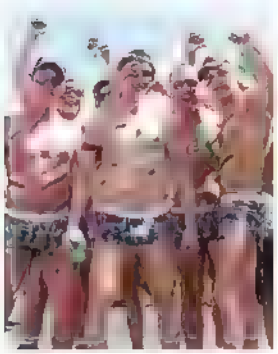
**Saturday 28 May - Pulse, London**
**www.bearpride.co.uk**

If you class yourself as a bear, or you're a friend of one - or even an admirer - then XXL Bear Pride is the event for you. Taking place at the amazing Pulse nightclub in London, XXL Bear Pride brings you pretty much what you'd expect from the usual men-only event that operates in Birmingham's Core Club - except with a whole load more bears! The event runs from 10pm until 7am and costs just £8 for members or £15 for guests. Show your paws, people, because this is going to be one hot and horny event!

### Brighton Pride

**Saturday 6 & Sunday 7 August - Preston Park**
**www.brighton-pride.org**

One of the UK's biggest and best Pride events (right after Birmingham's, of course) is Brighton Pride. Hosted each year at the huge Preston Park, the event features numerous stages and arenas, including a main stage, cabaret stage, dance arena and bear tent - the list really does go on and on! This year, Carly Rae Jepsen headlines the festival alongside DJ Fresh, Fleur East and Alesha Dixon, with The Freemasons headlining the dance arena. If you're stopping for the second day, get set for fab fun at the annual street party near the sea front.



### Maspalomas Pride

**Sunday 1 - Sunday 15 May**
**Maspalomas, Gran Canaria**
**www.gaypridemaspalomas.com**

One of the hottest gay pride events on the planet, Maspalomas Pride in Gran Canaria combines sunshine, revelry and pool parties! The event attracts tens of thousands each year so if you haven't been before, make the trip in 2016!

### Sitges Pride

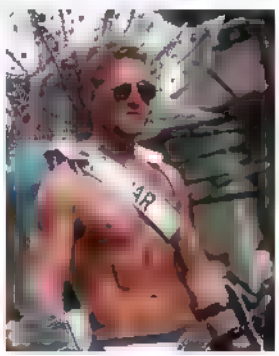
**Thursday 16 - Monday 20 June**
**Sitges, Spain**
**www.gaysitgespride.com**

Hosted in mainland Spain, Sitges Pride (near Barcelona) is another fantastic hot weather event that attracts thousands of people each year. With live music, parties and more, this rainbow-filled festival in the popular gay resort will leave you wanting more much more! Oh, and be sure to check out the hot guys on the carnival parade too!

### Pride in London

**Saturday 25 June**
**Trafalgar Square**
**www.prideinlondon.org**

It's the turn of the UK's capital city to host its Pride event next month - and boy, is it shaping up to be a good one! After a pretty epic parade through the streets kicks things off, the party proper then starts in Trafalgar Square. Keep your eye on the London Pride website to find out who's performing at this year's bash.



### Manchester Pride

**Friday 26 - Sunday 28 August**
**Manchester Gay Village**
**www.manchesterpride.com**

It's certainly not 'grim up north' when Manchester Pride's parade and Big Weekend are happening! Artists so far confirmed to perform at the 2016 event include Will Young, Katy B, Fleur East, Ben Pearce and Heather Peace.

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY **CAMPAIGNING FOR GLOBAL EQUALITY**

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**SATURDAY 6TH AUGUST / PRIDE FESTIVAL**

INTERNATIONAL ARTIST **CARLY RAE JEPSEN** / THE LEGENDARY **SISTER SLEDGE**

**DJ FRESH** / FLEUR EAST / **ALESHA DIXON**

ANNE-MARIE / **THE 2 BEARS** (LIVE)

**SEANN MILEY MOORE** / PAM ANN / **IMANI**

**FRANKMUSIK** / FREEMASONS / **JORDAN GRAY**

SINK THE PINK / **STONEBRIDGE** / CARNIVAL COLLECTIVE

Plus 14 diverse entertainment areas including : Dance Tents - Legends Cabaret Big Top - Mens and Bears Zone - Girls Dance Tent Latin Quarter - Sheila McWattie Womens performance Stage - Community Village - Market - Family Diversity Area - Funfair - and much more.

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@L FEST EVENTS

FOR TICKETS WWW.LFEST.CO.UK

# PRIDE UK Diary Dates

## MAY

**Exeter Pride**
Saturday 7 May
Exeter Phoenix
exeterpride.co.uk

**Birmingham Pride**
Saturday 28 & Sunday 29 May
Birmingham Gay Village
birminghampride.com

**XXL Bear Pride**
Saturday 28 May
Pulse, London
www.bearpride.co.uk

**Durham Pride**
Monday 30 May
Rainbow Square
durhamprideuk.org

**Worthing Pride**
Tuesday 31 May
Connaught Theatre
Facebook: PRIDE Worthing

## JUNE

**Cumbria Pride**
Saturday 4 June
Carlisle City Centre
cumbriapride.org

**Oxford Pride**
Saturday 4 June
Oxford Castle & Paradise Street
oxford-pride.org.uk

**Blackpool Pride**
Saturday 11 June
Winter Gardens
blackpoolpridefest.com

**Gloucestershire Pride**
Saturday 11 June
Gloucester Park
glospride.org.uk

**Pride Canterbury**
Saturday 11 June
Dane John Gardens
facebook.com/pridecanterbury

**Coventry Pride**
Saturday 18 & Sunday 19 June
Fargo Village
coventrypride.org.uk

**York Pride**
Saturday 18 June
Knavesmire
yorkpride.org.uk

**Portsmouth Pride**
Saturday 18 June
Southsea Common
portsmouthpride.co.uk

**Pride in London**
Saturday 25 June
Trafalgar Square
prideinlondon.org

**UK Black Pride**
Sunday 26 June
Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens
ukblackpride.org.uk

## JULY

**Bourne Free Pride**
Friday 8 July
The Triangle, Bournemouth
bournefree.co.uk

**Sparkle: The National Transgender Celebration**
Friday 8 – Sunday 10 July
Sackville Gardens, Manchester
sparkle.org.uk

**Pride Bristol**
Saturday 9 July
Castle Park
pridebristol.co.uk

**Essex Pride**
Saturday 9 July
Central Park, Chelmsford
essexpride.org

**Newcastle Pride**
Friday 15 – Sunday 17 July
Town Moor
northern-pride.com

**Q Fest**
Friday 15 – Monday 18 July
Uttoxeter Racecourse
qfest.co.uk

**Pride in Hull**
Saturday 16 July
Baker Street
prideinhull.co.uk

**Stoke-on-Trent Pride**
Saturday 16 July
Northwood Park
stokeontrentpride.org.uk

**Brighton Trans Pride**
Friday 22 – Sunday 24 July
Dorset Gardens
transpridebrighton.tumblr.com

**Pride Diversity Games**
Saturday 23 & Sunday 24 July
Various Venues, Brighton
brighton-pride.org

**Luton Pride**
Saturday 23 July
Stockwood Park
lutonpride.doodlekit.com

**Chesterfield Pride**
Sunday 24 July
Queens Park
chesterfieldpride.co.uk

**Liverpool Pride**
Saturday 30 & Sunday 31 July
St Georges Quarter
liverpoolpride.co.uk

**Norwich Pride**
Saturday 30 July
The Forum
norwichpride.org.uk

**Weston-Super-Mare Pride**
Saturday 30 July
Grove Park
wsmpride.com

**Nottinghamshire Pride**
Saturday 30 July
Castle Gate, Nottingham
nottinghamshirepride.co.uk

**Pride Sheffield**
Saturday 30 July
Endcliffe Park
pridesheffield.org

**Brighton Dog Pride**
Sunday 31 July
Hove Recreation Ground
brighton-pride.org

## AUGUST

**Bicon**
Thursday 4 – Sunday 7 August
University of Central Lancashire
bicon.org.uk

**Family Pride**
Friday 5 – Monday 8 August
Barnswood Scout Camp, Leek
familyprideuk.co.uk

**Trans Pride South West**
Friday 5 August
Trinity Centre, Bristol
transpridesw.org.uk

**Brighton Pride**
Saturday 6 & Sunday 7 August
Preston Park & St James Street
brighton-pride.org

**Leeds Pride**
Sunday 7 August
Lower Briggate
leedspride.com

**Cymru Pride**
Saturday 13 August
Coopers Field, Cardiff
cardiffmardigras.co.uk

**Plymouth Pride**
Saturday 13 August
Hoe Park
prideinplymouth.co.uk

**Glasgow Pride**
Saturday 20 August
Glasgow Green
pride.scot

**Warwickshire Pride**
Saturday 20 August
Pump Room Gardens
warwickshirepride.co.uk

**Swindon & Wiltshire Pride**
Saturday 20 August
Town Gardens, Swindon
swindonwiltshirepride.co.uk

**Doncaster Pride**
Saturday 20 August
Sir Nigel Gresley Square
doncasterpride.co.uk

**Manchester Pride**
Friday 26 – Monday 29 August
Manchester Gay Village
manchesterpride.com

**Cornwall Pride**
Saturday 27 August
Lemon Quay, Truro
cornwallpride.com

**Walsall Pride**
Saturday 27 August
Gallery Square
walsallpride.org

## SEPTEMBER

**Leicester Pride**
Saturday 3 September
Victoria Park, Leicester
leicesterpride.com

**Reading Pride**
Saturday 3 September
King's Meadow Park
readingpride.co.uk

**Bolton Pride**
Friday 23 – Sunday 25 September
Victoria Square
boltonpride.com

## OCTOBER

**Chester Pride**
Saturday 1 October
Castle Square
chesterpride.co.uk

# 10 TOP TIPS FOR PRIDE

Whether you're a new or seasoned Pride-goer, here are some tips to make the experience a safe and enjoyable one

### EARLY BUY TICKETS

Most Pride festivals that charge an entrance fee offer you the chance to enjoy big discounts on tickets if you buy them in advance. Grab yours a couple of months before the event and you can more often than not save up to 50%, leaving you with more cash to splash at the event itself.

### BOOK A HOTEL

In much the same way as with your tickets, book your hotel good and early. Pride attracts lots of people from out of town, so accommodation fills up quickly. Don't have your Pride ruined by a lack of somewhere comfortable to rest your head at night!

### SENSIBLE SHOES

We don't mean to sound like your parents, but wear decent shoes. You'll be on your feet all day, dancing away, and your feet will hurt.

### KEEP HYDRATED

Drink water – plenty of it. The last thing you want is to ruin your day after having one too many beers!

### WEAR SUNSCREEN

If it's a hot day or weekend, then slap on some sunscreen! Getting burnt is painful and bad for your skin, so prevent it where possible.

### CARRY CONDOMS

You know the drill. Carry condoms just in case you find a guy you take a liking to. If you catch an STI, Pride will turn from pleasure to pain!

### PICKPOCKETS

Be wary of pickpockets. It's a sad fact of life that they're attracted to large crowds. Keep your belongings where you can see (or feel) them. The last thing you'd want is for your wallet to go walkies.

### TAKE A BREAK

After the parade and a day at the festival, head back home or to your hotel - to chill out for a bit before you head out to the bars and clubs. It's a long day, and you don't want to be too tired to enjoy the nighttime fun!

### CHARGE YOUR PHONE

Attending Pride can often mean a long day and your phone battery is sure to run out. Pick up an external battery pack beforehand to charge your phone on the go.

### DON'T GET SEPARATED

Make sure you stick with your friends. If you do leave them, let them know where you're going. And in anticipation of losing each other, pick a location at which you can all re-group.

Activities and Workshops

● The Cuddly Bear ● Animal Corner ● Pizza Making
● Mug-Cake Baking ● Cake Decorating
● Brainimaniac Science ● Air Dry Pottery
● Bezerkaz Circus Skills (www.bezerkaz.com)
● Treasure Hunt ● Family Pride Sports Day
● Bracelets & Beaded Bubble Wands ● Storytelling
● Fancy Dress Tent ● Family Pride's Got Talent
● Inflatables ● Abba Night & UV Disco
● My Fun Party Balloons & Magic Show

**Live Bands, Singers and DJ's all weekend**
**AND MUCH MUCH MORE...**

Barnswood Scout Camp, Leek Old Road,
Rushton Spencer, Nr Leek, Staffordshire SK11 0RB

**www.familyprideuk.co.uk**

Call: 0121 350 9217 / 0776 669 0706

# XXL BEAR PRIDE

## 28th MAY

10PM - 7AM MEMBERS £8/GUESTS £15

## XXL MID-WEEK SESSION

WEDNESDAYS 9PM - 3AM MEMBERS FREE / GUESTS £3

CAN'T WAIT FOR THE WEEKEND? GET YOUR XXL FIX AT THE MID WEEK BOOZE N' CRUISE SESSION

**PULSE**

No 1 INVICTA PLAZA, SOUTH BANK, LONDON SE1 TUBE: SOUTHWARK STATION

**XXL-LONDON.COM**

# TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR FASHION!

## GREAT FASHION FOR PRIDE!

**01 Orange Pasadena 279 Print Vest**

A great piece for warmer days out, this orange Pasadena 279 print vest will pair nicely with a pair of shorts and trainers to finish. You'll certainly stand out from the crowd

**£5.99**

**www.newlook.com**

**02 Light Blue Leaf Print T-shirt**

If bright colours aren't your thing, then this light blue short-sleeve t-shirt with a faded leaf design is a great alternative

**£10.00**

**www.burton.co.uk**

**03 Checked Linen-blend Shirt**

If you're more of a shirt kind of guy, then consider something like this checked linen-blend shirt. It features a button-down collar, chest pocket and yoke with a pleat.

**£16.99**

**www.hm.com**

**04 Chino Shorts**

These cotton twill chino shorts are bright and vibrant. They're sure to make you stand out at a Pride festival. Let's just hope it's a hot day!

**£14.99**

**www.hm.com**

**05 Cream Perforated Panel Trainers**

To finish off your look, try on these cream perforated panel trainers for size! Lace up fastening, a contrast sole and perforated panels all feature

**£24.99**

**www.newlook.com**

**06 Todd Sanfield Timeless Teal Brief**

Don't forget to grab your self some new pants too – we love these Todd Sanfield Timeless Teal Briefs from Clonezone featuring soft, breathable modal blend fabric that's gorgeously smooth to the touch and hugs your bulge perfectly

**£16.00**

**www.clonezone.co.uk**

Todd Sanfield
DESIGNED IN DETROIT
EXCLUSIVELY
CZ
clonezone
Online & Instore
CZ
clonezone
WORLDS BIGGEST GAY RETAILER
MANCHESTER | BIRMINGHAM | LONDON | BERLIN | VIENNA | ONLINE
CZ
clonezone

# SPECTACULAR ENTERTAINMENT AND DARING NEW STORIES AT THE REP

14 – 21 MAY

Stan's Cafe and Birmingham Repertory Theatre present

## MADE UP

A contemporary new play told through stunning live make-up transformations from the

26 MAY – 4 JUNE

## THE QUIET HOUSE

By Gareth Farr

An ordinary couple find themselves on an extraordinary journey when they decide to start a family

Cabaret XXL 9 JUNE presents

## BOURGEOIS & MAURICE

★★★★★ 'One of the most entertaining cabaret nights in the city' Behind The Arras

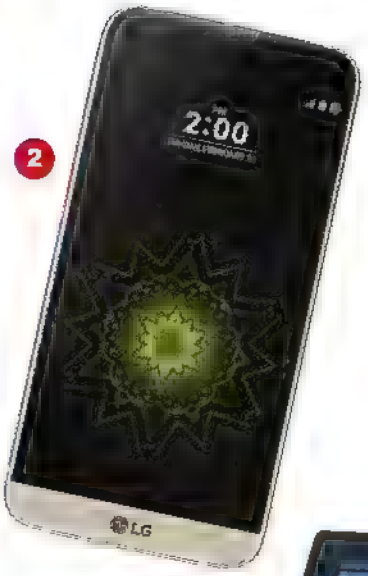
THE REP BIRMINGHAM REPERTORY THEATRE

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Box Office 0121 236 4455

Book Online BIRMINGHAM-REP.CO.UK

birminghamrep @birminghamrep @therepbirmingham



Tablet or laptop!

# THE BEST IN NEW TECH

## for at home and on the go...

**01 Amazon Echo Dot**

The new Amazon Echo Dot uses the Alexa Voice Service to play music, provide information, read the news, set alarms, control smart home devices and more, using just your voice. It's not available in the UK just yet, but it'll be here shortly.

**Approx. £65.00**

**www.amazon.com**

**02 LG G5**

The sleek LG G5 reinvents the Android smartphone with its adaptable modular accessory design, 5.3-inch HD display and fingerprint scanner. The great thing about this smartphone is you can slide out the battery if it runs down and replace it with another – perfect for when you run out of juice!

**From FREE**

**www.vodafone.co.uk**

**03 HTC 10**

The brand new HTC 10 is soon to arrive – and if you're looking for a flagship Android smartphone, this could be the one for you. Featuring 24-bit Hi-Res sound and optical image stabilisation in both front and back cameras, it has one of the highest ranks ever.

**From FREE**

**www.o2.co.uk**

**04 Ricoh Theta S**

This isn't just an ordinary camera – it's a spherical camera that captures the space around you – and with just one touch too. Create a sense of presence so real it feels like you're actually there. Look around the photos in any direction on the web or on a smartphone.

**£[illegible]**

**www.amazon.co.uk**

**05 Samsung Galaxy TabPro S**

The Samsung Galaxy TabPro S is essentially a tablet and laptop in one. Running Windows 10, this device and its 12-inch screen detaches from the keyboard – great for leaving the office and heading out on the road.

**£994.00**

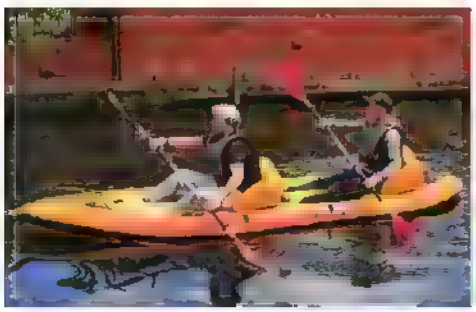
**www.amazon.co.uk**

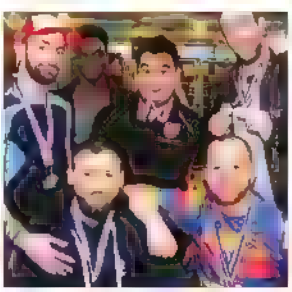
# Pride In Sport 2016 festival hailed a success

**Last month saw the return of Birmingham LGBT's annual LGBT sport festival, Pride In Sport.**

The festival saw a day of free competitive sports skills events taking place for a fifth time, with many of Birmingham's LGBT sports groups getting involved

Sports included football, hockey, badminton, rugby swimming, water polo, rowing, running, dance and table tennis. Seeing such a great event taking place made us think we should step into gear and join in too!





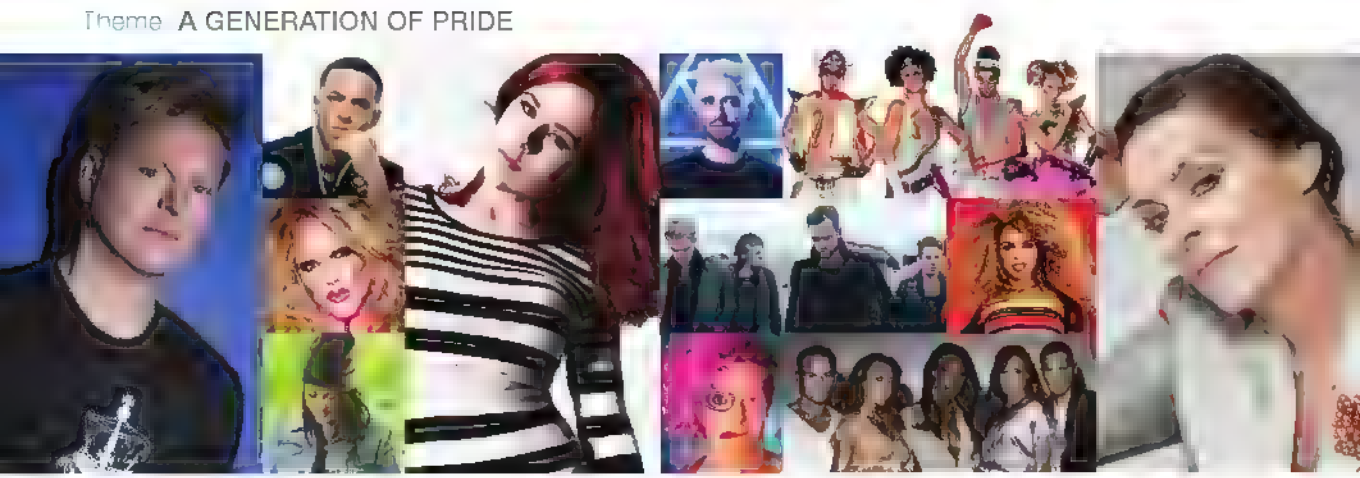
Your FREE 68 page Pride Guide

BIRMINGHAM pride

Sat 28 & Sun 29 May 2016

Set in the heart of the Birmingham Gay Village

Theme A GENERATION OF PRIDE



#Pride20

www.birminghampride.com

# All kinds of BIRMINGHAM

Birmingham City Council

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GET THE LATEST INFORMATION:
**www.birminghampride.com**

FOLLOW US:
**TWITTER:** @BirminghamPride
**FACEBOOK:** fb.com/PrideBirmingham
**INSTAGRAM:** @BirminghamPrideOfficial

LIVE TWITTER FEEDS THROUGHOUT THE FESTIVAL
Get handy tips during the festival and artists timings as they happen

# Home proud.

Proud to be joining you in Birmingham.

#HSBCpride

HSBC

# Welcome to Birmingham Pride

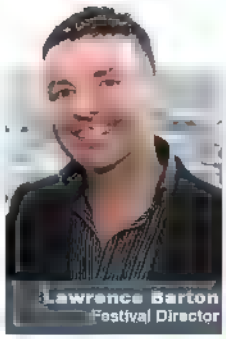
## A MESSAGE FROM THE FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

**Birmingham Pride is celebrating its 20th year - and as a proud Brummie-born man, it gives me great pleasure to welcome everyone to this year's festival.**

We are celebrating a Generation of Pride, which gives people the opportunity to remember and celebrate the LGBT community's achievements over the past 20 years

Birmingham Pride itself has been on a journey, from its very humble beginnings in 1997 - where a couple of thousand locals gathered to celebrate their lifestyle - to what it is today: one of the largest LGBT festivals in the UK. And one which is proud of its inclusivity, enjoyed by the whole community, and which has raised a most £150,000 in the last three years - money that has so far benefited 22 charities and organisations.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone supporting our 2016 event a very safe, happy and memorable 20th Birmingham Pride.



**Lawrence Barton**
Festival Director

## A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRST CHAIR OF PRIDE IN 1997

**Over 20 years ago, the LGBT community of Birmingham elected a Pride committee, and I was elected chairperson.**

We called it Birmingham Gay Pride! Now look what has happened!

An amazing festival every year, bigger and bolder and creating a huge charity pot for local communities

We hoped it would bring us closer to equality. Lower the age of consent to equal others. Civil partnerships, be able to leave your pension, property and possessions to your partner and have them be your legal next of kin. Equality. We got it.

Although I think we got more than we bargained for when we flung our social doors wide open. OMG!

I say thanks to all the campaigners who came before us. Thanks to everyone who came with us. And thank you to those who are still doing so now

**Bill Gavan**
Co-Founder & first Chair of Birmingham Pride in 1997

## A MESSAGE FROM PETER TATCHELL

**Congratulations Birmingham Pride on your 20th year: two decades of fabulousness with a message of equality, inclusion and diversity.**

I am so proud of your efforts and so honoured to have been part of Birmingham Pride for many years. Keep up the great work that you do for LGBT visibility and rights

Wishing you a sparkling rainbow Pride 2016.

**Peter Tatchell**
Human Rights Campaigner

# Celebrating 20 years of Birmingham Pride

## THEME: A GENERATION OF PRIDE

**This year's Birmingham Pride is the 20th since the event was launched back in 1997. So appropriately, our theme this year, A Generation Of Pride, will celebrate the LGBT community's hard-fought battles and pivotal achievements during the last 20 years.**

These milestones include an equal age of consent, civil partnerships, the right to serve in the military, the right for trans people to legally change their gender, marriage for lesbian, gay and bisexual couples, and equal adoption rights for same-sex couples. The UK also enjoys the highest LGBT representation of any parliament in the world

On a local level, the Pride 2016 theme also celebrates the development of Birmingham's own gay scene into one of the most popular in the country. Starting off with just a handful of venues, the city's Gay Village now features over 15 vibrant and diverse bars and clubs, as well as one of the first LGBT health and wellbeing centres in England and Wales

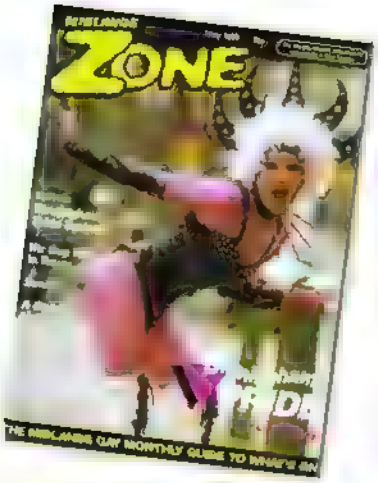
In addition, the theme marks the LGBT community's journey as a generation, and also

*The first Birmingham Pride back in 1997*

reflects on the extraordinary journey of Birmingham Pride itself. From its humble beginnings in 1997, when the event was staged outside the city's Nightingale Club and attended by just a few thousand people, the festival has evolved into one of the UK's leading LGBT gatherings, attracting over 50,000 visitors each year

#PRIDE20

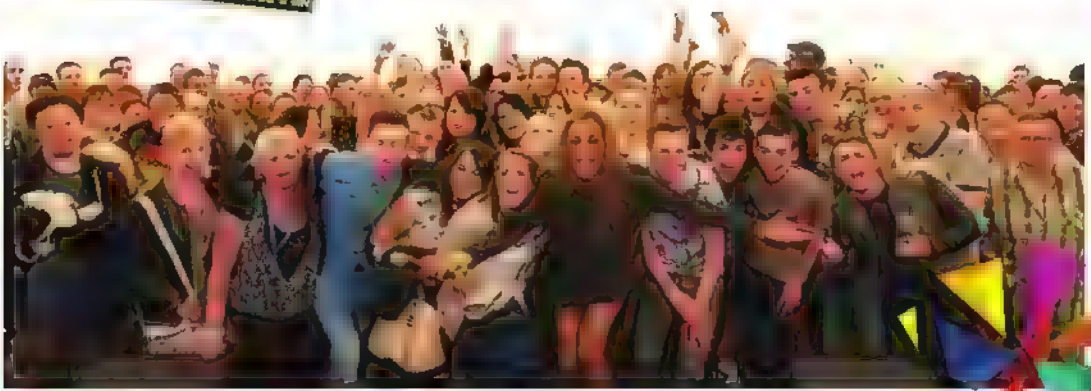
# A Generation of Pride




**Back in May 1997, the very first Birmingham Pride featured on the front cover of Midlands Zone magazine - our Principal Media Partner for each of our 20 years - courtesy of this striking image of Birmingham's very own Twiggy!**

**Twiggy performed at that very first Pride event - and we're delighted to have her performing this year too!**

**Midlands Zone launched in April 1997, just ahead of the first Birmingham Pride - so a big, happy 20th year to the region's favourite LGBT magazine too!**



# PACKAGE HOLIDAYS

BIGGER

BOOK DIRECT WITH VIRGIN HOLIDAYS IN STORE

VIRGINHOLIDAYS.CO.UK/STORES

Carnival Parade
Saturday 28 May

## Victoria Square, Birmingham City Centre

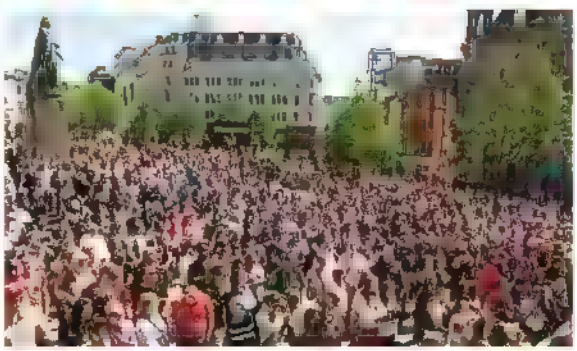
## Saturday 28 May at 12 noon

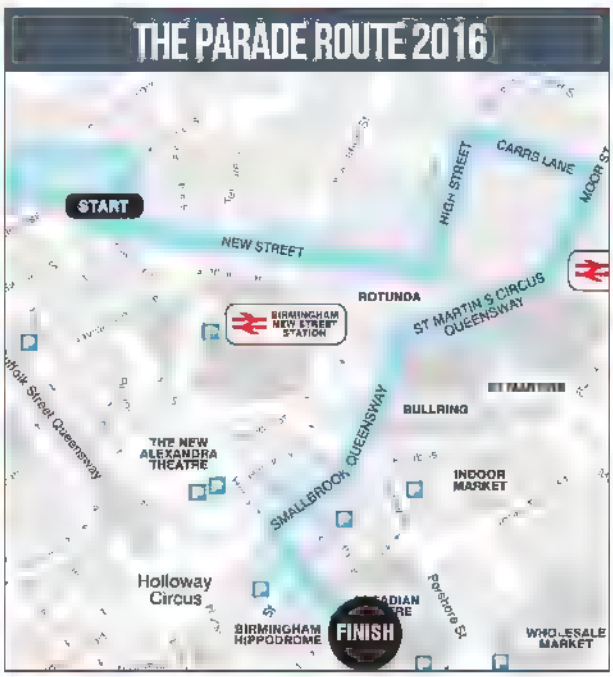
### This year's theme...

# A Generation of Pride

Following Birmingham Pride's official opening ceremony, the parade sets off at 12 noon precisely, along the best parade route ever!

It will wind its way around the city centre and then down to the top of Hurst Street, by the Birmingham Hippodrome






## Get involved in the parade...

It may not be too late to get involved and enter a float! Anyone interested in participating in the parade should urgently contact **peter@birminghampride.com** or call **0121 622 6034**

# When everyone is welcome, anything is possible

At Barclays we embrace everyone as a partner. Our Diversity and Inclusion strategy allows us to welcome and serve customers and colleagues from all societies, cultures and communities. We harness the power of diversity to drive innovation, improve the performance of our business and deliver a sustainable and successful future.

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# Ticket & Wristband Information

## Buying Discounted Advance Tickets

ONLINE: www.birminghampride.com IN PERSON: Clonezone Birmingham

### TICKET / WRISTBAND EXCHANGE:

If you have purchased a ticket either online or from a ticket outlet, you will need to exchange your ticket for a wristband on the day

**THE NIGHTINGALE:** Ticket/Wristband Exchange will be available from The Nightingale on Kent Street from **9am until 12am (midnight) on Thursday 26 and Friday 27 May**

**STANDARD TICKET/WRISTBAND EXCHANGE BOOTHS:**

ONLY available at the top of Hurst Street (just down from the Birmingham Hippodrome theatre) at the following times.

**Sat 28 May from 10am until 11pm**

**Sun 29 May from 10am until 10pm**

Please note Delays are expected between 11am and 3pm on Saturday 28 May due to the volume of people so try and avoid these times if at all possible.

**VIP TICKET/WRISTBAND EXCHANGE BOOTHS:**

ONLY available on Bromsgrove St (see map) at the following times

**Sat 28 May from 10am until 11pm**

**Sun 29 May from 10am until 10pm**

## Buying a Wristband on the day

If you haven't purchased a ticket in advance, you will be able to buy a Wristband over the Pride weekend

Wristbands are:

**Day Wristbands £25**
**Evening Wristbands (after 11pm) £15**
**Weekend Wristbands £40**

**CASH PURCHASES:**
Day and Weekend Wristbands over the Pride festival can be purchased by cash at all seven entry/exit points - see the map on pages 10 and 11 for the locations of the different wrist band pay booths

**CREDIT CARDS:** If you want to buy WRISTBANDS over the Pride weekend using a Credit/Debit card, this is ONLY available at the top of Hurst Street (just down from the Birmingham Hippodrome theatre).

## Important wristband info...

Wristbands must be securely fastened or may be void.

Wristbands must be intact, in one piece, and worn at all times.

Torn or ripped wristbands will not be accepted for entry

Lost wristbands will not be replaced under any circumstances, and if you are not wearing a valid wristband, you will be asked to leave the festival site

Wristbands are not transferable between visitors.

Wristbands are required for drink purchases at all venues and outdoor bars within the Main Festival Site

**UNDER 5s GO FREE!**
**WHEN ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT**

**THE CARNIVAL PARADE IS A FREE EVENT ON SATURDAY 28 MAY!**
**FROM 11AM FROM VICTORIA SQUARE**

**HAVE A SAFE & HAPPY PRIDE!**

## Venue Map Key

**1 Glamorous** — SEE PAGE 38

**4 Missing** — SEE PAGE 32

**5** — SEE PAGE 46

**10 THE VILLAGE INN** — SEE PAGE 24 & 25

**11 eden** — SEE PAGE 30 & 31

**15 THE FOX** — SEE PAGE 32

**17 THE NIGHTINGALE CLUB** — SEE PAGE 14 & 15

**21 Chic** — SEE PAGE 20 & 22

**23 Birmingham LGBT** — SEE PAGE 42

2 Birmingham Hippodrome (See p36)
3 Clonezone (See p41)
6 [illegible]
7 [illegible]
8 RSVP
9 [illegible]
12 The [illegible]
13 Boyz
14 AB [illegible]
16 [illegible] 2
18 [illegible] 13
19 The [illegible]
20 The [illegible]
22 Bar [illegible]

## BEAT THE QUEUES!

EXCHANGE YOUR TICKET FOR A WRISTBAND EARLY

You can exchange your ticket for a wristband on Thurs 26 & Fri 27 May at The Nightingale Club from 9am until midnight!

Site Map Key
Pay On The Day Booth
Outside Bars
Toilets
Event Control & Lost Children
First Aid
Venues
Funfair
Controlled Entry/Exit
TAXIS Taxi Pick up / Set down
TAXIS
1
2
PAY ON THE DAY BOOTH
SEE KEY FOR MORE PAYMENT POINTS
INGE STREET
HURST STREET
ARCADIAN CAR PARK
BROMSGROVE ST
TICKET/ WRISTBAND EXCHANGE BOOTH
3
4
PLEASE NOTE:
NO GLASS OR ALCOHOL IS ALLOWED TO BE TAKEN INTO THE PRIDE SITE
FUNFAIR
VIP TICKET/ WRISTBAND EXCHANGE BOOTH
5
6
7
8
MAIN STAGE
CABARET MARQUEE
SKINNER LANE
THERE ARE LOTS OF BARS AND FOOD OUTLETS ON SITE
9
HURST STREET
17
KENT ST
18
GOOCH ST NTH
10
15
16
DANCE ARENA
WOMEN'S ARENA
14
ER ESSEX STREET
11
KENT STREET
Only
12
13
SHERLOCK STREET
TAXIS
WRENTHAM STREET
HAVE A SAFE & HAPPY PRIDE!
#PRIDE20

THE NIGHTINGALE CLUB PRESENTS
Live performance
LIBERTY X
Saturday 28th May
ON BEHALF OF ALL THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF WE WISH YOU A SAFE AND HAPPY BIRMINGHAM PRIDE

# SUNDAY 29th MAY

TICKETS FROM THETICKETSELLERS.CO.UK

ESSEX HOUSE, KENT STREET / BIRMINGHAM / B5 6RD - 0121 622 1718

THENIGHTINGALECLUB @NIGHTINGALECLUB THENIGHTINGALECLUB

HEADLINER

## KATY B

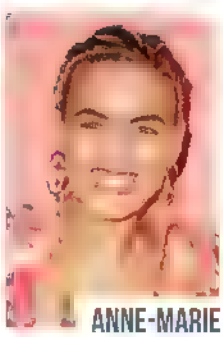
MARVIN HUMES
PRESENTS LUVBUG

LUCY SPRAGGAN

HEADLINER

## LAWSON

RITON



ANNE-MARIE

JOSEPH WHELAN
AND THE CAST OF RENT THE MUSICAL

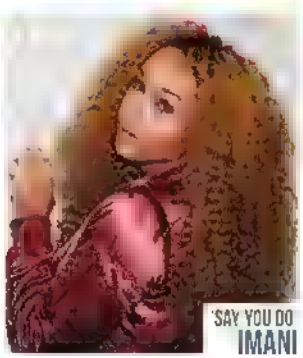


Follow us on TWITTER for performance times during the day @BirminghamPride

Pride Main Stage
Saturday 28 May

HEADLINER
FLEUR EAST

'FAST CAR
DAKOTA



'SAY YOU DO
IMANI

LIBERTY X

AMANDA WILSON

MELISSA TOTTEN

KATY B
LAWSON
FLEUR EAST
MARVIN HUMES
PRESENTS LUVBUG
LIBERTY X
'FAST CAR'
DAKOTA
'SAY YOU DO'
IMANI
RITON
ANNE-MARIE
LUCY SPRAGGAN
AMANDA WILSON
MELISSA TOTTEN
JOSEPH WHELAN

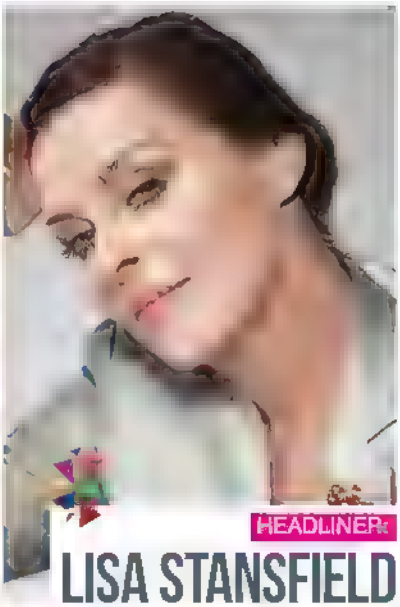
For approximate stage timings visit
www.birminghampride.com
Tickets are £5 (+ VAT)
Birmingham Pride throughout the day

THE NIGHTINGALE CLUB

HEADLINER

ERASURE'S

## ANDY BELL



HEADLINER

## LISA STANSFIELD

MNEK

VENGABOYS

KAREN HARDING

K STEWART



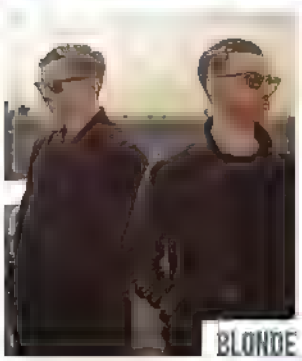
Follow us on TWITTER for performance times during the day @BirminghamPride

Pride Main Stage

**Sunday 29 May**

HEADLINER

## DJ FRESH



BLONDE

STOOSHE

BOOTY LUV

LYDIA LUCY

MASON NOISE

KELLI-LEIGH

96 ONE DREAM

ERASURE'S
ANDY BELL
DJ FRESH
LISA STANSFIELD
MNEK
BLONDE
VENGABOYS
KAREN HARDING
K STEWART
STOOSHE
MASON NOISE
LYDIA LUCY
BOOTY LUV
KELLI-LEIGH
96 ONE DREAM

For approximate stage timings visit
www.birminghampride.com
Keep up to date with
@birminghamPride throughout the day

THE NIGHTINGALE CLUB

## Warwickshire Pride

**Saturday 20 August - Pump Room Gardens**
**www.warwickshirepride.co.uk**

Returning to Pump Room Gardens in Royal Leamington Spa, Warwickshire Pride this year adopts the theme A Right Royal Pride. Offering a fun-filled day of entertainment, the royal shindig features The Voice's Jordan Gray, Bradley Hunt, Ruder Than U, Twisted Rio and more. There's even a Pride's Got Talent contest, with the winner performing live at Pride!

## Walsall Pride

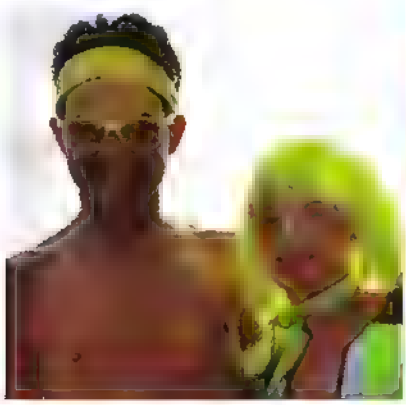
**Saturday 27 August - Gallery Square**
**www.walsallpride.org**

Taking place at Gallery Square (and beyond), this celebration of equality, diversity and all things rainbow-coloured in the town of Walsall features a main stage, cabaret stage and a big after-party at the nearby Lion Bar & Club. If you can't wait for August, Walsall Pride's Summer Ball takes place on Friday 1 July at Arbor Lights restaurant, with entertainment from Tanya Hyde and Sandra. Tickets are £35 and include a three-course meal and an after-party at The Lion Bar & Club.

## Leicester Pride

**Saturday 3 September - Victoria Park**
**www.leicesterpride.com**

Although there's so far been no announcement of acts for this year's Leicester Pride, we're nonetheless looking forward to the late-summer festival of fun. Coming second in the Midlands Zone Readers' Awards 2016 for Best Midlands Pride Event, the Victoria Park-based get-together features a main stage, a dance arena, a funfair, community stalls and much more besides – including a dazzling parade that sweeps through the city centre en route to the party in the park. See you there!



Walsall Pride

Registered Charity Number: 1161574

# 4th Annual PRIDE BALL

**Friday 1st July 2016 7:30PM**

PERFORMANCES BY:

## SANDRA & TANYA HYDE

Tickets £35 per person To include:
a 3 course meal, entertainment and after party
at The Lion bar & club

**Tickets and Information 01922 613361**
**www.walsallpride.org**

**Hosted at Arbor Lights,** Lichfield Street, Walsall, WS1 1SY

Walsall Pride

**Main Stage**
**Cabaret Marquee**
**Market Stalls - Fair Rides**

## SATURDAY 27TH AUGUST 2016

**11am August Bank Holiday - Gallery Square, Walsall**

Arbor Lights BAR & RESTAURANT

ZONE

THE RED LION Walsall

The Lion Bar & Club

# Chic

# PRIDE WEEKEND

SATURDAY 28TH & SUNDAY 29TH MAY 2016
23:00 - 08:00

SATURDAY 28TH & SUNDAY 29TH MAY 2016

## JAMES HYPE

WWW.JAMESHYPE.COM / FACEBOOK.COM/JAMESHYPETHEDJ

## TOM BULL

WWW.SOUNDCLOUD.COM/TOMBULLDJ

MARCUS / REWBS / LEVETT / LARRY HAN / YAN
MARTIN CRICH / DAN HEIGHT / SANDI G / CHRIS STEELE / PEARCE M

CHIC BIRMINGHAM ★ #CHIC_CLUB ★ TIME 10PM - 8AM
ENTRY £10 TICKETS & £15 DOOR / DRESS CODE SMART & FUNKY
CLUB NIGHTCLUB • 28 HORSE FAIR • BIRMINGHAM B1 1DD

HUSH Hair & Beauty

ticketsellers

# Dance Arena
## Sunday 29 May

HEADLINER
## 99 SOULS

HEADLINER
## MS DYNAMITE

PETE GRAHAM

DONKIE PUNCH

JAMIE GEORGE

DAN HARRIS

SUNDAY 29 MAY

**99 SOULS**

**MS DYNAMITE**

PEARCE M
SANDI G
DONKIE PUNCH
MARCUS JAMES & YAN
PETE GRAHAM
& JAMIE GEORGE
ANDRE AMOUR & BEAVER
JOE CAMPBELL
& LARRY HAN
DAN HARRIS
DAN HEIGHT
MITCH P & LINO

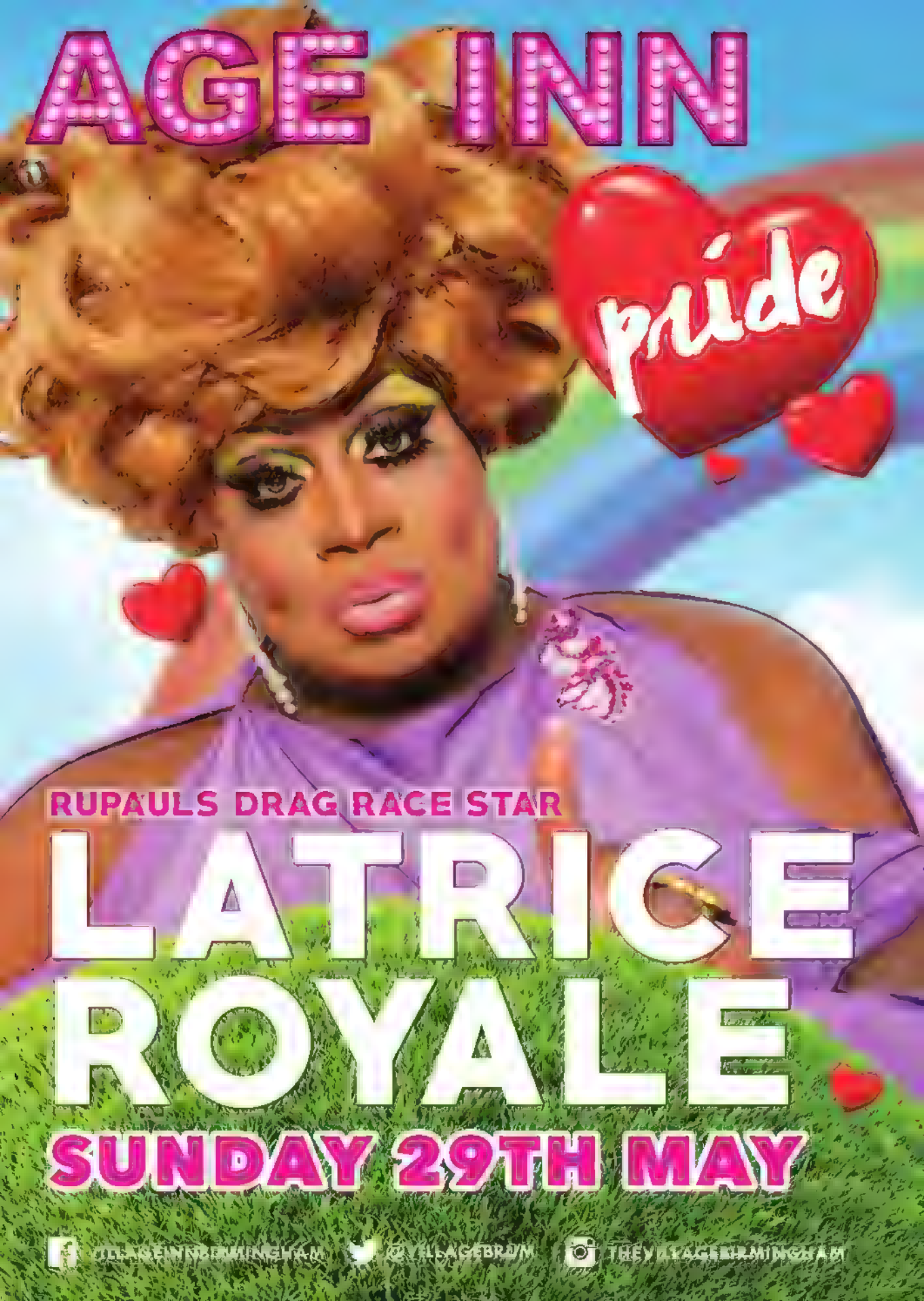
For approximate stage timings, visit

or keep an eye on
Twitter
throughout the day.

The Dance Arena is
organised and sponsored by

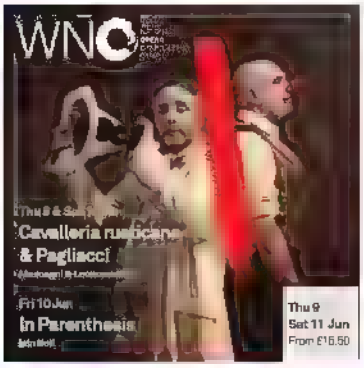
Chic

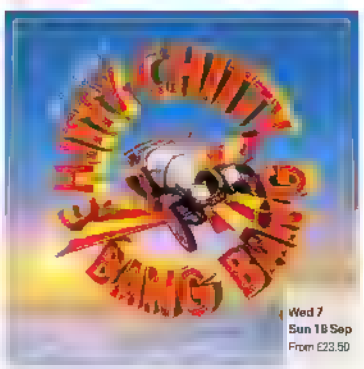
THE VILL
FRIDAY 27TH MAY
SANDRA
MASON
NOISE
SATURDAY 28TH MAY
ON BEHALF OF ALL THE MANAGEMENT AND STA
WE WISH YOU A SAFE AND HAPPY BIRMINGHA


AGE INN
pride
RUPAULS DRAG RACE STAR
LATRICE ROYALE
SUNDAY 29TH MAY

BIRMINGHAM
HIPPODROME

see something new






BIRMINGHAM
HIPPODROME

0844 338 5000 birminghamhippodrome.com

Calls cost 4.5p per min plus access charge 5% transaction charge applies excluding cash sales in person

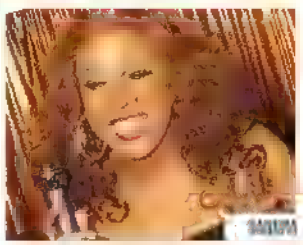
Cabaret Marquee

Saturday 28 May

HEADLINER

**WILLAM** AS SEEN ON RU PAUL'S DRAG RACE

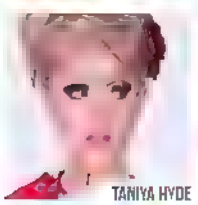
MELISSA TOTTEN



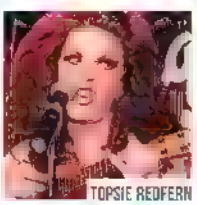
LOLA LASAGNE

CHAMPAGNE SHIRLEY

DAVE LYNNN



TANIYA HYDE



TOPSIE REDFERN

BEVERLY SAVARIN

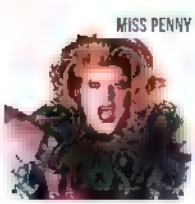
MISS MARTY

KARA VAN PARK

LADY MELDA

SPICE

MISS PENNY



THE SUPREME FABULETTES

**WILLAM**

**MELISSA TOTTEN**
AS MADONNA

SOMEONE AT THE DOOR
SAMBA BAND

GLITTER SH*T

LADY IMELDA

LOLA LASAGNE

DOUBLE DIVAS
FEAT. KARA VAN PARK & TANYA HYDE

SUPREME FABULETTES

CHAMPAGNE SHIRLEY

DAVE LYNN &
MAISIE TROLLETE

TANYA HYDE

SPICE GIRLS LIVE
FT. BABA CHIPZ, LADY LLOYD, RAVEN MANDELA, SNOW WHITE TRASH & SILVER SUMMER

TOPSIE REDFERN

BEVERLY SAVARIN
AS WHITNEY HOUSTON

DJ: MISS PENNY

HOUSEWIVES OF BIRMINGHAM

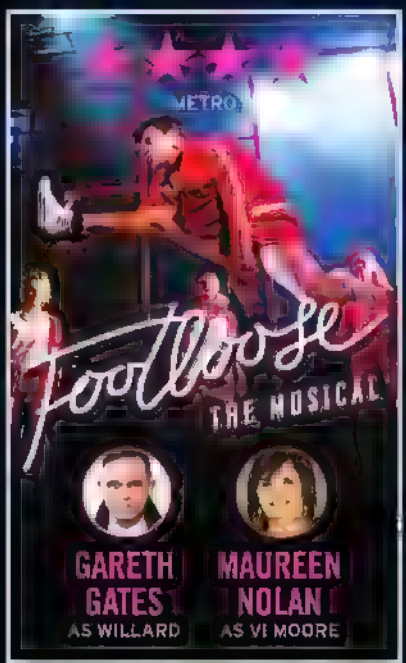
HOSTESS: SANDRA & MARTY

For approximate stage timings visit
www.birminghampride.com
or keep an eye on Twitter
@BirminghamPride throughout the day

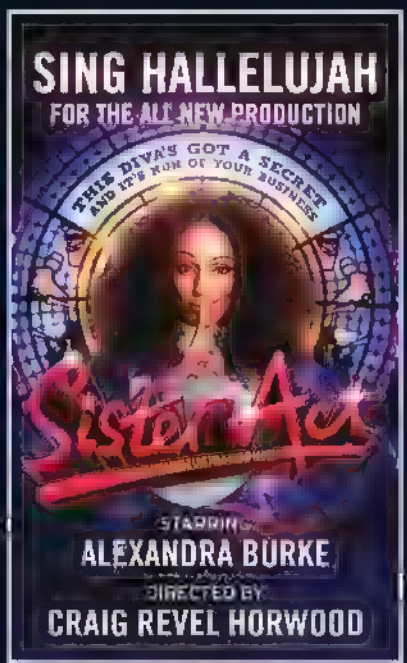
Cabaret Marquee
sponsored
by

THE VILLAGE INN

# A FABULOUSLY FEEL-GOOD SEASON AT THE NEW ALEX




MON 4 - SAT 9 JUL




MON 12 - SAT 17 SEP

MON 19 - SAT 24 SEP

TUE 27 SEP - SAT 1 OCT

MON 10 - SAT 15 OCT

MON 12 - SAT 31 DEC

NEW ALEXANDRA THEATRE
BIRMINGHAM
WORLD CLASS THEATRE

ATG TICKETS 0844 871 3011 (Mon-Sat 8am-8pm)
GROUPS 10+ 0844 871 3031
www.atgtickets.com/birmingham (Mon-Sat 8am-8pm)
Calls cost 7p per minute, plus your phone company's access charge.

HEADLINER
DE EXPERIENCE

VICKY JACKSON

TOPPING & BUTCH

VICKI VIVACIOUS

BAGA CHIPZ

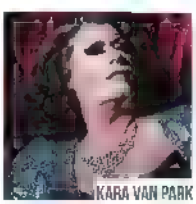
SON OF A TUTU

TIARA THUNDERPUSSY

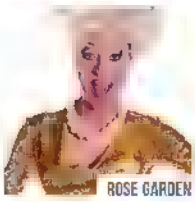
TWIGGY

MISS JASON

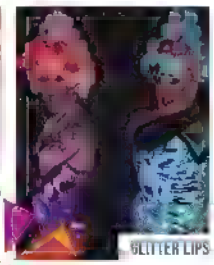
MISS PENNY


KARA VAN PARK

KELLY WILDE


ROSE GARDEN

AMY LA QUEEFA


GLITTER LIPS

THE LEGENDARY
# DE EXPERIENCE

**VICKY JACKSON**
AS PINK
MISS JASON
TIARA THUNDERPUSSY
TOPPING & BUTCH
AMY LA QUEEFA
KARA VAN PARK
MISS PENNY
KELLY WILDE
ROXY HART
ROSE GARDEN
GLITTER LIPS
FT. TILLY AND PAM CATZ
SON OF A TUTU
BAGA CHIPZ
VICKI VIVACIOUS
TWIGGY

HOSTESS: SANDRA
& MISS MARTY

For approximate stage timings, visit
www.birminghampride.com
or keep an eye on Twitter
@BirminghamPride throughout the day

THE VILLAGE INN

eden

SAT 28TH

# KEVIN SIMM

LIBERTY-X & WINNER OF THE VOICE 2016

# ANDREA FAUSTINI

X-FACTOR 2014 - 3RD PLACE

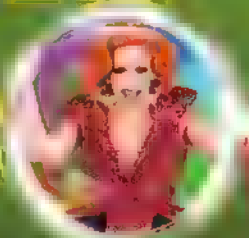
# 4TH IMPACT

X-FACTOR 2015 - 5TH PLACE

# DANNY BEARD

DRAG IDOL 2015 - WINNER

# MARY MAC



# DJ DAN

| SUN 1st | FRI 6th | SAT 7th | THUR 12th | SAT 21st | THUR 26th |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| DANNY BEARD | | BFM | DRAG IDOL with LA VOIX | MORRISSEY DISCO | DRAG IDOL B'HAM FINAL with LA VOIX |

www.theeden.co.uk

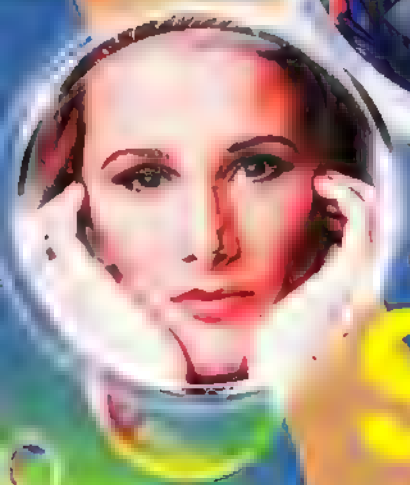
FREE ENTRY ALL WEEKEND

No Wristbands Needed

SUN 29TH

# MARC ALMOND

TAINTED LOVE - SAY HELLO, WAVE GOODBYE



# SAM BAILEY

X-FACTOR 2013 - WINNER

# LA VOIX

& HER VA VA VOOM BOYS

# SEANN MILEY MOORE

X-FACTOR 2015 CONTESTANT

# THE FLEURETTES

# DJ NIKKI

FRI 27th

MIDSBEARS

START PRIDE

with

LA VOIX

EVERY THURS

I ♥ THE 90s

90s HITS WITH DJ DAN

EVERY FRI & SUN

KARAOKE & DISCO DJ NIKKI

EVERY SAT

90s HITS WITH DJ DAN

BACARDI

Heineken

BROTHERS

KOPPARBERG

SWALLOW

WKD

# Giggle Pride

LIVE AT THE FOX
MONDAY 30TH MAY

From 6pm

Free Entry

Jen Brisley

Maureen Younger

Hannah Brackenbury

Lyndsey Santoro

17 Lower Essex Street Birmingham

Solicitors Regulation Authority

Taking Pride in a diverse legal profession

# Abi needs a loving family

You can make a difference. Foster a local child and transform their life.

Fostering for Wolverhampton

Make a Difference

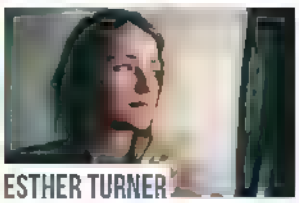
Visit www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/fostering

Call 01902 551133 to find out more.

HANNAH BROWN

SALLY HAINES

CLAIRE HUMPHRIES


ESTHER TURNER

ZARA

CALL ME UNIQUE

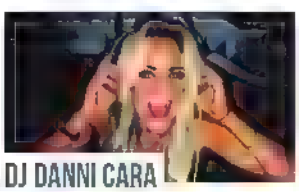
REYNA WASHBROOK

TRANSITS

FAYE BAGLEY

CONSUELA

LUCY BROWN


DJ DANI CARA

DJ DANI

AMY LA QUEEFA

## SATURDAY 28 MAY

HANNAH BROWN
CLAIRE HUMPHRIES
REYNA WASHBROOK
DJ ROQ BIATCH
DJ PAMPERS
LUCY BROWN
ELLA ROBINSON
FAYE BAGLEY
AMY LA QUEEFA
DJ DADDY
DJ DANNI CARA

## SUNDAY 29 MAY

SALLY HAINES
CLEO
CONSUELA
URBAN CELLAR PRESENTS
DJ SHORTY - DJ BAIL
DJ JEN BEE - DJ DANI
IT IS WHAT IT IS PRESENTS:
ESTHER TURNER
ZARA
CALL ME UNIQUE
TRANSITS

For approximate stage timings, visit

or keep an eye on

Twitter

throughout the day

Your Southside

# MAP

**Bars and clubs**

| | |
|---|---|
| Arca | B2 |
| Amusement 13 | B4 |
| Bar Jester Lounge & Nightclub | A3 |
| Boltz | C5 |
| British Oak | B5 |
| CCK | B2 |
| Chic Nightclub | A3 |
| Eden | C5 |
| Individual Bar | C3 |
| Legs 11 | B2 |
| Missoula | B2 |
| Missing Bar | C3 |
| Nightingales Club | D4 |
| Medusa Lodge | C4 |
| Moo-Baa | A2 |
| Myyst | C2 |
| Priva Bar | B3 |
| Prysm | A4 |
| Rileys Pool & Snooker Club | B3 |
| Second City Suites | E5 |
| Sidewalk | C4 |
| Snobs | B2 |
| Sobar | B2 |
| Sunflower Lounge | B1 |
| The Core | C5 |
| The Dragon Inn | B3 |
| The Fox | D4 |
| The Fountain Inn | B5 |
| The Green Room | B2 |
| The Loft Lounge | B4 |
| The Old Fox | B3 |
| The Village Inn | C4 |
| The Wellington | A4 |

**Car Parking**

| | |
|---|---|
| APCOA Car Park | C3 |
| Hill Street | B1 |
| Hurst Street Car Park | C4 |
| NCP Holloway Albany | a2 |
| Pershore Street Car Park | C3 |
| Thorp Street | B3 |

**Entertainment**

| | |
|---|---|
| Birmingham Hippodrome | B3 |
| Birmingham Royal Ballet | B3 |
| The Electric | A1 |
| The Glee Club | B3 |
| The Old Rep Theatre | B1 |
| The O2 Academy | A4 |

**Food on the go**

| | |
|---|---|
| Caribana | A2 |
| Coffee Factory | A2 |
| Quarterhorse | A5 |
| Rod Ro | A2 |
| Subway | B1 |
| Subway | B3 |
| Urban Kitchen | C3 |

**Gaming**

| | |
|---|---|
| Genting Casino Chinatown | B2 |
| Ladbrokes | B3 |
| Paddy Power | B2 |
| William Hill | B2 |

**Health and Beauty**

| | |
|---|---|
| Ace Face Barbers | A5 |
| DanceXchange | B3 |
| Flygirls | B1 |
| George Kosit Hair | A3 |
| K Star Boxing | B4 |
| LGBT Health & Wellbeing | A2 |
| Long Life Herbal | A2 |
| Salon Revolution | A2 |
| Saint Salons | B3 |
| Vivid Ink | A2 |

**Hotels**

| | |
|---|---|
| Radisson Blu | A2 |
| Holiday Inn | A2 |
| Comfort Inn | B1 |
| Ibis Budget | A5 |
| Ibis Hote | B2 |
| Premier Suites | C2 |
| Stay City | C3 |
| Travelodge | C2 |

**Places to visit**

| | |
|---|---|
| Birmingham Back to Backs | B3 |
| Birmingham Open Media | B1 |
| Brum Rhino | C3 |
| Public Art - David Bowie | C1 |
| Public Art - Fox | C4 |
| Public Art - Golden Boy | C4 |
| Public Art - Tank Petrol | C3 |
| Public Art -Tank Petrol | C5 |

**Restaurants**

| | |
|---|---|
| Big Wok | B2 |
| Caffe China | C3 |
| Cafe Soya | C2 |
| China Court Restaurant | C2 |
| Chung Ying | B2 |
| Chung Ying Garden | B2 |
| Hometown China | C3 |
| Jacky's Kitchen | B3 |
| James Dahl | C3 |
| Kyoto Sushi | C3 |
| Las Iguanas | C3 |
| Legend | B3 |
| Levana | C3 |
| Maharaja | B2 |
| Malaysian Delight | B2 |
| Manchester Seafood | B2 |
| Meating | C3 |
| Mitsho | C3 |
| Mon Mon | C3 |
| Mung Moon | B2 |
| Miyako Teppanyaki | C3 |
| New Sum Ye | C2 |
| Ocean Dragon | C2 |
| Pepper Chef | B3 |
| Red n Hot | B2 |
| Shanghai Shanghai | C3 |
| Taj Mahal | B1 |
| Topokki | B3 |
| Ulysses | A4 |

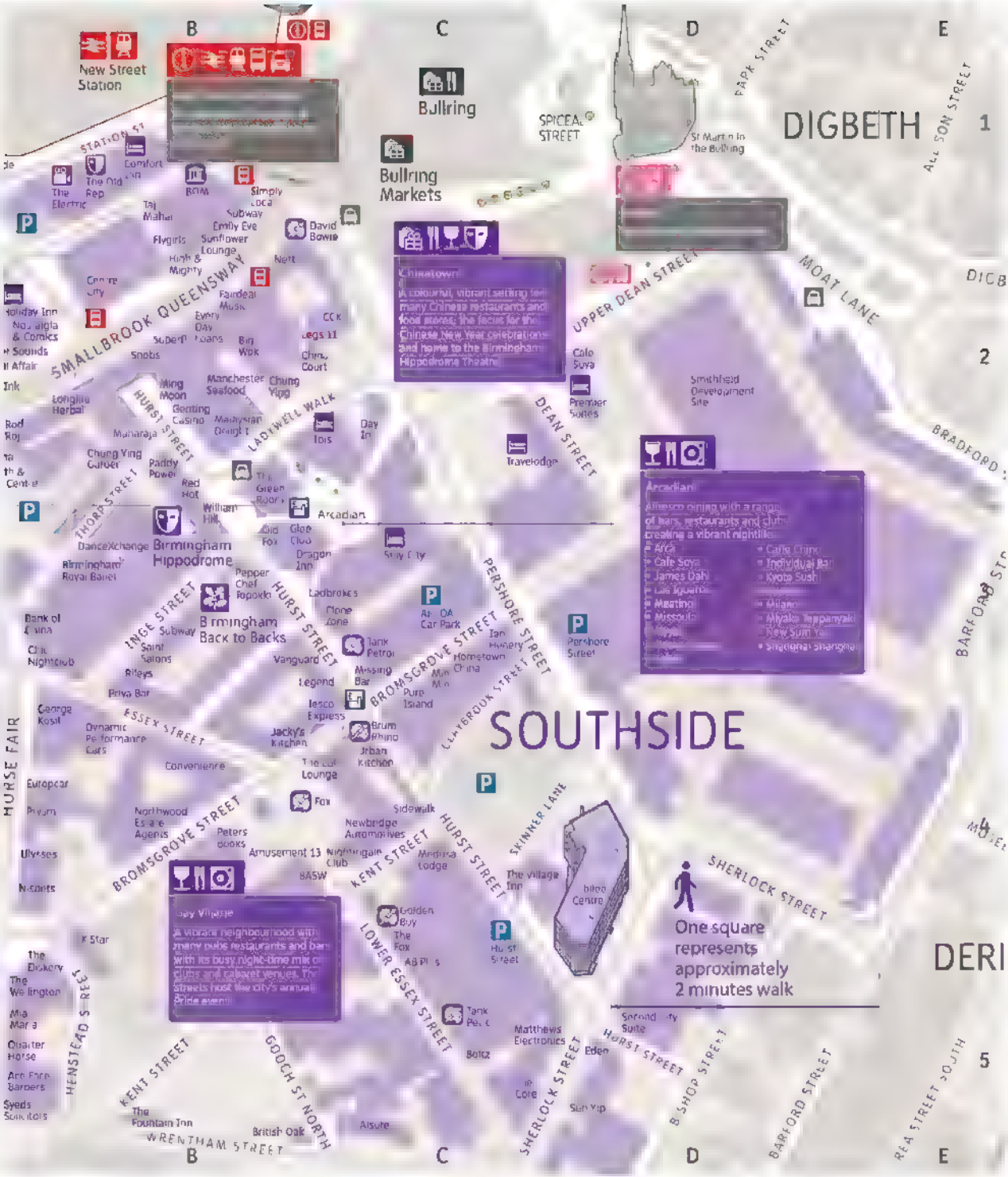
**Services**

| | |
|---|---|
| AB Plus | C4 |
| AVIS Car Hire | A3 |
| Bank of China | A2 |
| Dynamic Performance Cars | B3 |
| Europcar Car Hire | A4 |
| Every Day Loans | B2 |
| Ian Henery | C3 |
| Nett | B2 |
| Newbridge Automotives | C4 |
| Nortwood Estate Agents | B4 |
| Pure Island Dry Cleaners | C3 |
| Syeds Solicitors | A5 |

**Shopping**

| | |
|---|---|
| Clone Zone | B3 |
| Cosicutter | A2 |
| Day In | B2 |
| Emily Eve | B1 |
| Fairdea Music | B2 |
| Forma Affair | A2 |
| High and Mighty | B2 |
| iConvenience | B4 |
| Matthews Electronics | C5 |
| Mia Maria | A5 |
| Nisbets | A4 |
| Nostalgia & Comics | A2 |
| Richer Sounds | A2 |
| Simply Local | B1 |
| Sun Yip | C5 |
| Superdi | B2 |
| Tesco Express | B3 |
| The Diskery | A4 |
| Vanguard | B3 |

Southside ARE PROUD




# TO SUPPORT BIRMINGHAM pride

ASHLING AND NATALIE WELCOME YOU TO..
THE
BULL RING
TAVERN
1 DIGBETH, B5 5BD
FRIDAY NIGHT
OLD SCHOOL DISCO
with free shots give-away for best & quirkiest dancers
SATURDAY NIGHT
MADAM SPANKIE
CAMP CABARET
with games, free shots & prizes
SUNDAY NIGHT
KARAOKE & DISCO
LIVE SINGERS: Leroy & Amy Winehouse Tribute
FREE ENTRY
NO WRISTBANDS NEEDED
SINGLE & DOUBLE ROOMS AVAILABLE
NO INCREASE ON DRINK PRICES
MEGA DRINKS PROMO ALL WEEKEND

TO VIEW THE ROOM BEFORE BOOKING
PLEASE CONTACT
WEDDINGS@MALVERNHILLS.GOV.UK
01684 862412

Glamorous
pride
Sat 28 May 12a
GLITTER
Sun 29 May 12am
GAVINA VAGINA
MORE!
Hosted by Amanda Cruz
Glamorous
CABARET BAR
ALBANY HOUSE · 31 HURST ST · BIRMINGHAM · B5 4BD
OPEN 10AM TIL 3AM

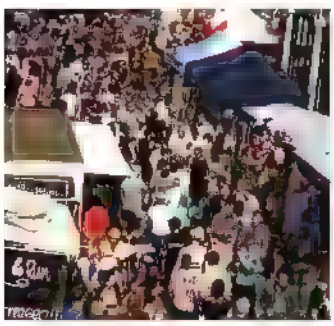
# Pick up a bargain at Birmingham Pride's market & community stalls

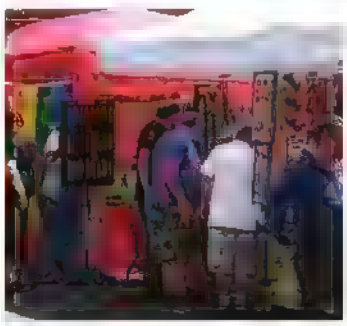
Birmingham Pr de sn t just about celebrating LGBT life or en oying a party - it s also about community, and supporting the organisations that help people in everyday l fe Pop by the market and community stalls over the weekend and see what the various community groups are getting up to

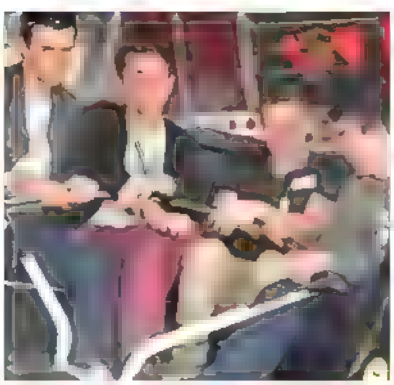
You ll a so be able to pick up a barga n or several from the numerous market stal s Whether it s a t-shirt, rainbow flag or hat you re after, you're bound to find something you ll love

If you haven't already booked a stal , you m ght st l be able to get one!

Ema l christina@eventmen co uk for more information







# Thrill-seeking fun at Birmingham Pride's biggest funfair!

There's plenty of adrenaline pumping white-knuckle exc tement to be en oyed at th s year's funfair And who knows, you might just end up having the best ride of your weekend!

There are gent er rides ava lable for the ittle ones and fam l es, not to mention swings and roundabouts bouncy castles and a host of other great attract ons for all the family to enjoy

BIRMINGHAM pride

# Missing

## 2 DAYS 16 PERFOMANCES

### 36 HOURS OF NON STOP PARTY! 4 BARS 4 DJ'S

Missing STREET PARTY!

HITMAN AND HER

INTRODUCING

CRYSTAL LUBIKUNT | CHERRY LIQUOR!

MATHA D'ARTHUR | TWIGGY | DIVINE MISS M

AMY LAQUEEFA | GAVINA VAGINA | BOYONCE

Missing Pit Stop

THE MISSING PIT STOP

OPEN 12PM - 11PM

YOUR FIRST STOP AT PRIDE

MARC ALMOND

ALESHA DIXON

KEVIN SIMM

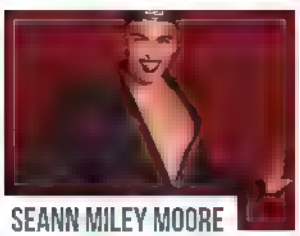
LIBERTY X

MASON NOISE

4TH IMPACT

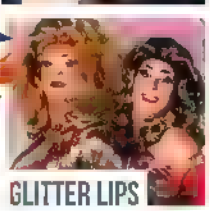
SAM BAILEY

LATRICE ROYALE


SEANN MILEY MOORE

ANDREA FAUSTINI

LA VOIX


GLITTER LIPS

DJ JAMES HYPE

## SATURDAY 28 MAY

THE NIGHTINGALE
LIBERTY X
THE VILLAGE INN
MASON NOISE
EDEN BAR
4TH IMPACT
ANDREA FAUSTINI
DANNY BEARD
KEVIN SIMM
MARY MAC
GLAMOROUS
GLITTER LIPS
CLUB CHIC
DJ JAMES HYPE

## SUNDAY 29 MAY

THE NIGHTINGALE
ALESHA DIXON
THE VILLAGE INN
LATRICE ROYALE
EDEN BAR
MARC ALMOND
SAM BAILEY
LA VOIX
SEANN MILEY MOORE
THE FLEURETTES
GLAMOROUS
GAVINA VAGINA
CLUB CHIC
DJ TOM BULL

# XXL BIRMINGHAM

## FRIDAY 27th MAY

10PM - 4AM MEMBERS £5/GUESTS £8

**THE CORE**
135 SHERLOCK ST, BIRMINGHAM

XXL-LONDON.COM

# Gay Venues

Birmingham offers visitors one of the best gay scenes in the UK, with its gay village boasting over 15 bars and clubs, all within close proximity of one another.

Check out the following gay venues and their adverts in this guide...

**Eden** See page 30 & 31
116 Sherlock Street 0121 622 1953

**The Fox** See page 32
17 Lower Essex Street - 0121 622 3213

**Glamorous** See page 36
27 Hurst Street 0121 622 3213

**The Loft Lounge** See page 46
142 Bromsgrove Street 0121 622 2444

**Missing** See page 38
48 Hurst Street 0121 622 4256

**The Village Inn** See page 24 & 25
152 Hurst Street - 0121 622 4742

**Club Chic** See page 20 & 22
28 Horsefair - 0121 666 6806

**The Nightingale** See page 14 & 15
Kent Street - 0121 622 1718

Birmingham Pride would like to thank all the advertisers in this guide, who have helped make this publication possible at NO cost to the festival.

# NEW SERVICES FOR THE LGBT COMMUNITY

Birmingham LGBT

### SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICE

Culturally specific sexual health services for LGBT communit es Services include

- Free condoms, lube & g.oves
- Free HIV Rapid test ng

Emai.: sexualhealth@blgbt.org

**Here to support, not to Judge!**

### LIVING WELL

The programme a ms at improving the well being and resil ence of LGBT ind viduals through workshops, courses, events and one to one support. Full details of the events programme and how to access one to one support are ava labe on our website

### AGEING BETTER

Ageing Better is an exciting new init at ve which aims to help older people become more involved in their local communities, have a voice in service provision, set up their own networks and activities and to reduce social isolation

### SPORTS

Activate offers **FREE** drop n sess ons and events, supports existing LGBT sports clubs and helps set up new ones Recent classes and events inc.ude yoga, boxerc se, hula hooping, l ne dancing, table tenn s, walking and cycling. Contact us and find the act vity that fits with your .ife and goals

### OTHER SERVICES AVAILABLE, AND PROGRAMMES INCLUDE

LGBT Domestic Violence, LGBT ISVA, Counselling & Psychotherapy, Peer Mentoring, Arts & Heritage Programmes & Volunteering

### CONTACT US FOR MORE DETAILS

## www.birminghamlgbt.org.uk

T 0121 643 0821 E hello@blgbt.org
Birmingham LGBT Centre, 38/40 Holloway Circus, Birmingham B1 1EQ

LOTTERY FUNDED
SPORT ENGLAND
Supported by umbrella

# Queer Arts at Pride

**Birmingham's very own SHOUT Festival of queer arts is back with some special events around Birmingham Pride. The annual festival takes place every November. This programme is funded by Birmingham Pride and co-ordinated by local LGBT charity Birmingham LGBT. Here are ten events to add a cultural twist to Pride. For further information, visit www.shoutfestival.co.uk**

## Prem Sahib

**Until Friday 3 June**
**FREE Event**
**Grand Union, Fazeley Street**

A solo exhibition of new work by artist Prem Sahib. Sahib's work is informed by the atmosphere of spaces where physical encounters happen; places where there is a potential to touch and be touched. Sahib's aesthetic draws heavily on the environments and interiors of saunas, clubs and public cruising venues, where ideas around anonymity, touch and proximity are at play.

## Gender Blending

**Throughout May and June**
**FREE Event**
**Birmingham LGBT Centre, Southside**

This exhibition examines how recent generations have used drag and dressing up to challenge, subvert and entertain.

## Oriented

**Sunday 22 May - 3pm**
**£8.70/£5.90**
**Electric Cinema, Southside**

Oriented is a feature documentary that follows three gay Palestinian friends confronting their national and sexual identity in Tel Aviv.

## MY Comedy

**Sunday 22 May - 7:30pm**
**£10/£8**
**The Penthouse**
**(above The Loft Lounge)**

MY Comedy features the best in queer comedy to kick off Birmingham Pride 2016! Maureen Younger will be joined on stage by Jayde Adams, Mary Bourke and Mrs Barbara Nice.

## The Sound Of Music with Mrs Barbara Nice

**Saturday 28 May - 2:30pm**
**£8.70/£5.90**
**Electric Cinema, Southside**

Mrs Barbara Nice joins us to present The Sound Of Music! Based on the real-life story of the Von Trapp family singers, one of the world's best-known concert groups in the era immediately preceding World War Two. Julie Andrews plays the role of Maria... need we say more?

## Acoustic Chill Out

**Saturday 28 May**
**- 2:30pm till 6:30pm**
**FREE Event**
**Birmingham LGBT Centre, Southside**

Relax at Pride and join SHOUT and Birmingham LGBT for a coffee at Moment's Café. Superb Birmingham acoustic favourites Faye Bagley and Zara Sykes perform throughout the afternoon.

## Gaybe Baby

**Sunday 29 May - 12:30pm**
**£8.70/£5.90**
**Electric Cinema, Southside**

The number of kids being raised by same-sex couples is growing worldwide.

We are in a gayby-boom. But who are these kids? What do they think about having same-sex parents? And do they face different issues to other kids?

At a time when the world is debating equality, these questions are more important than ever. Told from the perspective of the kids, Gaybe Baby is an intimate and sometimes humorous account of four children and their families.

## SHOUT OUT Community Day

**Sunday 29 May - 1pm till 6pm**
**FREE Event**
**Birmingham LGBT Centre, Southside**

A favourite during SHOUT Festival in November each year, SHOUT OUT Community Day takes over the Birmingham LGBT Centre for Pride 2016 - with your favourite performances from a variety of community groups across Birmingham.

## Giggle At The Fox

**Monday 30 May - 6pm**
**FREE Event**
**The Fox, Lower Essex Street**

End Birmingham Pride with a laugh at the annual Giggle At The Fox event by MY Comedy! Maureen Younger is joined by Lindsey Santoro, Hannah Brackenbury and Jen Brister.

## Holding The Man

**Monday 30 May - 3:30pm**
**£8.70/£5.90**
**Electric Cinema, Southside**

Holding The Man is a 2015 Australian romantic drama adapted from Timothy Conigrave's 1995 memoir of the same name.

# Birmingham, a city of culture...

Birmingham Pride takes place right in the heart of the city's Southside district, in and around the exciting Gay Village and alongside one of the UK's largest theatres, the Birmingham Hippodrome.

As well as programming some of the biggest touring productions to come out of the West End, the Hippodrome is home to the prestigious Birmingham Royal Ballet and DanceXchange - the organisers of the International Dance Festival Birmingham (IDFB), 1 - 22 May

A short stroll from the Gay Village are numerous other theatres/arts venues well worth a visit - the New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham REP, Birmingham Town Hall and the prestigious Symphony Hall

For art enthusiasts, the Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery is a must, while those in need of sustenance can head to some of the city's many cafes, restaurants and cocktail bars

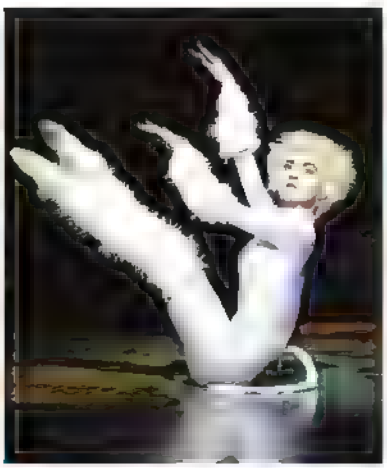
## What's happening where...

### Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra

**Birmingham Conservatoire,**

**Sun 12 June**

One of two LGBT orchestras in the UK, the BGSO has gone from strength to strength since its formation in 2008. Under the leadership of Kat Galbraith the ensemble next month returns to the Conservatoire to present a selection of well-known scores from the classical repertoire. Works include Dvorak's Symphony No 9, best known from the Hovis TV ads, and Saint Saens' haunting Danse Macabre, aka the theme tune to Jonathan Creek



### Cats

**Birmingham Hippodrome**

**Mon 30 May - Sat 4 June**

A spectacular and captivating adaptation of TS Eliot's Old Possum's Book Of Practical Cats, this Andrew Lloyd Webber production has been performed in over 300 cities in more than 20 countries around the world

### Shadowlands

**The REP, Birmingham**

**Tues 31 May - Sat 4 June**

At Shadowlands' centre is the story of the late-flowering love between Oxford academic CS Lewis and American poet Joy Davidman, a relationship which would ultimately lead to Lewis profoundly questioning his devoutly held Christian faith.

Stephen Boxer (Humans, The Iron Lady, Doctors) top bills as Lewis. Amanda Ryan (The Forsyte Saga) and Denis Lill (Only Fools And Horses) also star

## Let's Dance! International Dance Festival Birmingham 2016

From ballet to Bollywood, hip-hop to lindy-hop and kathak to acrobatics, since 2008, International Dance Festival Birmingham has been rapidly gaining a reputation as one of the UK's most important dance events firmly cementing its place in the city's cultural calendar. Whatever your interests, there's certainly plenty to look forward to, including Centenary Square Live Nights, a series of free performances, live music, circus and dance, plus award-winning street food from Digbeth Dining Club. Festival highlights include The Ricochet Project: Smoke And Mirrors - winner of the Total Theatre Award for Best Circus at Edinburgh Fringe 2015 - and Hofesh Shechter's critically acclaimed first full length dance production.

International Dance Festival Birmingham (IDFB) takes place at various locations from 1 - 22 May

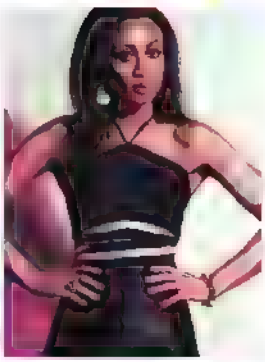
## The Sound Of Music

**Birmingham Hippodrome, Mon 30 May - Sat 28 May**

One of the most popular family musicals of all time, Rodgers & Hammerstein's The Sound Of Music is best known from its mid-1960s film version starring Julie Andrews. It tells the story of the Von Trapp family's World War Two flight across the mountains of Austria, and features hit songs like Edelweiss, My Favourite Things, Do-Re-Mi, Climb Ev'ry Mountain, The Lonely Goatherd, So Long, Farewell and, of course, the title track itself. Lucy O'Byrne (The Voice) takes the lead role of Maria.

## Beverley Knight

**Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Thurs 2 June**



Recording artist, radio presenter and musical theatre actress Beverley Knight MBE is this year celebrating the 21st anniversary of her debut album, The B-Funk. Stopping off in Birmingham as part of a 13-date tour (her first in four years), Knight will perform hits from her back catalogue, songs she's performed in her West End shows and material from her forthcoming album.

## Film: Pride

**The Nightingale, Wed 25 May**

This is the true story of how a group of LGBT activists attempted to raise money to help families affected by the 1984 miners' strike. Directed by Matthew Warchus and starring Bill Nighy, Imelda Staunton and Dominic West, Pride is here screened as part of The Nightingale Film Club. Entry is free and viewers are encouraged to bring their own snacks.

## Footloose

**New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Mon 4 - Sat 9 July**

Gareth Gates, Maureen Nolan and Lee Brennan star in a brand new tour of the explosive rock'n'roll musical based on the 1980s screen sensation of the same name.

For those not familiar with the narrative, Footloose is a story of youth, rebellion and romance. The central character is Ren McCormack, a Chicago teenager who moves to a small town where dancing and rock music are banned. There, he falls for the rebellious Ariel - and it's not long before all of the town's rules are turned upside down.

# THE LOFT LOUNGE

ON BEHALF OF ALL THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF WE WISH YOU A SAFE AND HAPPY BIRMINGHAM PRIDE

ENJOY BIRMINGHAM PRIDE IN THE LOFT LOUNGE GARDEN

# International cuisine with an international reputation!

**Over the past decade, Birmingham has transformed itself into the ultimate dining destination. Now with five Michelin-star restaurants - Purnell's, Simpsons, Adams, Turners and, most recently, Carters Restaurant - Birmingham has gained both national and international recognition as the country's regional capital of cuisine.**

Not only that, but in recent years the New York Times has ranked Birmingham among the top 20 international cities to visit, due to its impressive culinary reputation

Birmingham boasts numerous high-profile restaurants and offers plenty of choice when it comes to cuisine, including Chinese, Indian, Italian, French, Spanish, South American and North American

There are a host of food outlets throughout the Pride festival site - many of which are offering healthy options. If you fancy grabbing something to eat without venturing too far from the Gay Village and all the Pride action, head for The Loft Lounge

The Southside district is also home to Chinatown, boasting an array of delicious Chinese cuisine to enjoy

There are plenty of other restaurants throughout the city too, in The Mailbox, Brindleyplace, The Cube and Spiceal Street, to name but a few destinations.

**For more eating out suggestions, head to www.visitbirmingham.com or www.BirminghamWhatsOn.co.uk**

www.HIVTESTUK.com

Home HIV Testing You Can Trust

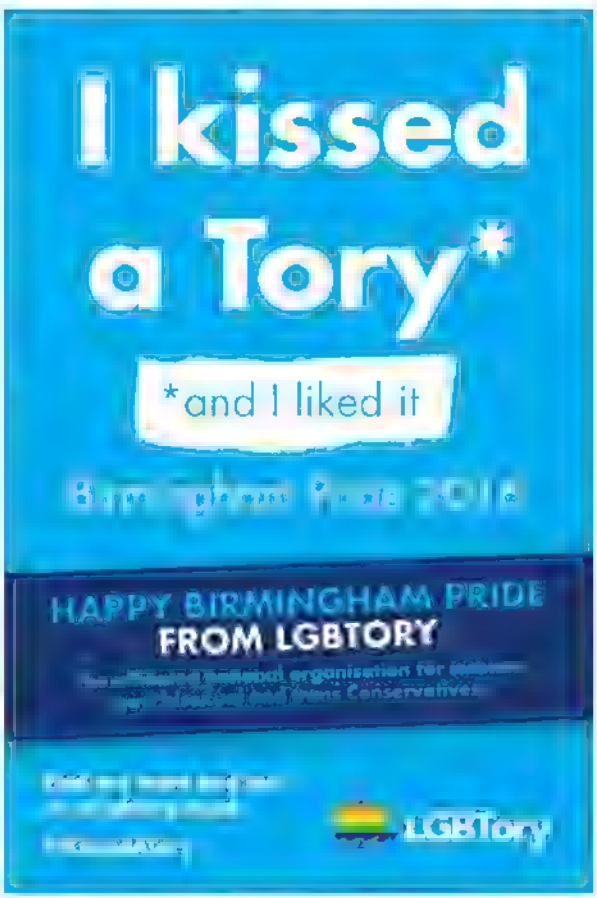
Order Your FREE HIV Test Now

In association with

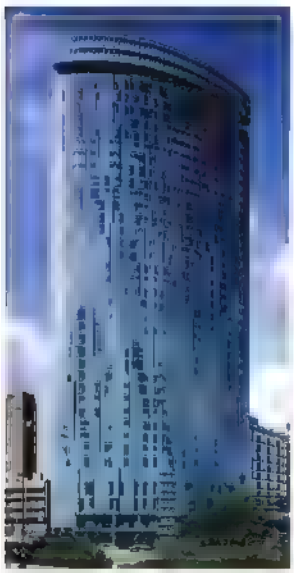
SAVING LIVES

BIRMINGHAM HEART_ANDS HIV SERVICE

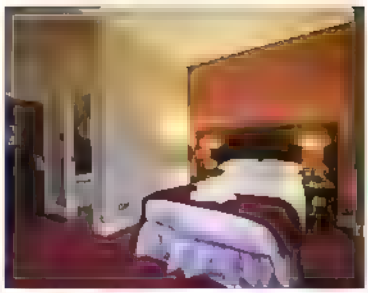
Heart of England NHS



# Staying Over



RADISSON BLU



HOLIDAY INN

STAYING COOL APARTMENTS

**Visiting Birmingham from elsewhere in the country? If so, there's plenty of accommodation available in the city centre, with over 8,000 beds to suit every taste and budget.**

Amongst the best places to stay is the stunning Radisson Blu, a 39 storey glass sky scraper located on the outskirts of Birmingham's gay village and just a five minute walk away from the weekend's action

Other nearby accommodation includes the luxury Staying Cool penthouse apartments at the top of the Rotunda, providing stunning views across the city

If you're on a tighter budget, the Ibis, Holiday Inn, Travelodge, Ibis Budget and Nite Nite are all just a stone's throw from Birmingham's gay village

**For a full list of Birmingham's hotels - and for more information about the city itself - visit www.visitbirmingham.com**

# Get the VIP experience at Birmingham Pride!

**If you fancy attending Birmingham Pride in style, take a look at our fantastic VIP tickets! There's a whole host of benefits that come with the tickets - check them out below:**

- ☑ **MEET-AND-GREET OPPORTUNITIES WITH SELECTED ARTISTS**
  MEET-AND-GREETS CANNOT BE GUARANTEED
- ☑ **FAST-TRACK ENTRY INTO THE SITE**
- ☑ **VIP PRIORITY BAR AREAS**
- ☑ **VIP MAIN STAGE VIEWING AREA**
- ☑ **VIP CABARET STAGE VIEWING AREA**

**There's a limited number of VIP tickets available - so grab yours whilst you can, as they're proving popular!**

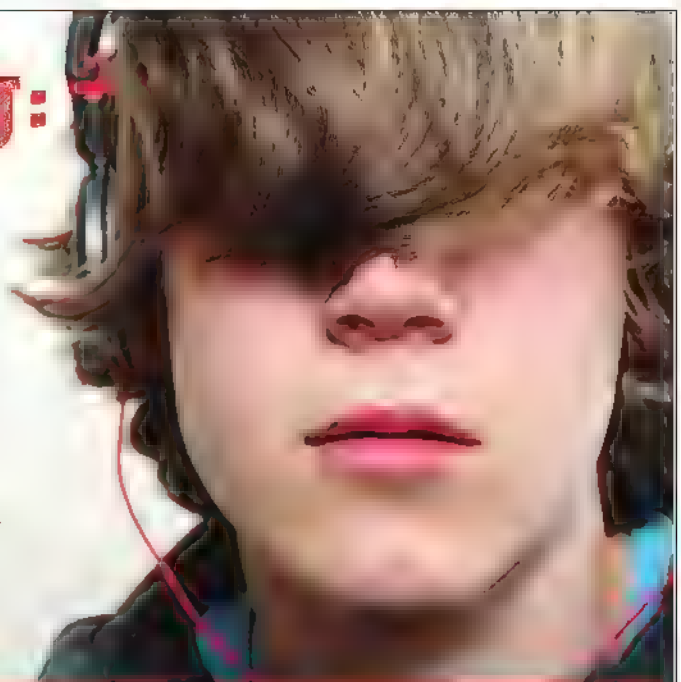
# Fostering:

I won't always tidy my room
I won't always say thank you
I won't always behave

But I'll never forget you.

**Join Sandwell's biggest family**

If you have time space and commitment, get in touch. It could be life changing.



**0800 358 0899**
www.sandwell.gov.uk/fostering

fosterline

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JQ festival 2016
22-24 JULY 2016
GOLDEN SQUARE
Warstone Lane, Birmingham
B18 6NA
ST PAUL'S SQUARE Birmingham B3 1QZ
OPEN STUDIOS
Throughout the JQ
www.jewelleryquarter.net/jq-festival
/jqdtbirmingham
@JQBID
SAVE THE DATE MORE DETAILS TO COME

# Head into the city and pick up a new outfit for Pride!

**Birmingham can rival the best when it comes to shopping, with three major retail outlets - Bullring, Grand Central and The Mailbox - making it a perfect destination for those who love to shop till they drop!**

Featuring leading shopping centres and unique arcades, the city offers something for all tastes and pockets

A stone's throw from the Gay Village is the latest addition to Birmingham's retail offer - and home to the city's newest department store, John Lewis Opened in September 2015, Grand Central hosts a wealth of well-known retailers, including Hobbs, Steel & Jelly, Jo Malone and Kiehls. It also features a popular champagne bar and tapas restaurant, serving some of the city's finest Spanish cuisine

Those who really like to splash out should head to the recently refurbished Mailbox. With Harvey Nichols as its flagship store, The Mailbox takes style to a new level with the latest in luxury retail. High-end designers with Mailbox outlets include Armani Collezioni, Boss, Tommy Hilfiger and Calvin Klein

For the biggest of the best high street names, head to Bullring
One of the largest shopping centres in the UK, Bullring features an abundance of well-known retailers There, you'll find the iconic Selfridges, Armani Exchange, All Saints, Hollister and Ted Baker featuring alongside high street favourites Topshop, River Island, H&M and Zara

Independent retailers are represented in the city's central shopping area, with plenty more to explore in the beautiful Great Western, Burlington and Piccadilly arcades

And when you need to rest those weary feet, you're guaranteed to find a bar, restaurant or coffee shop nearby in which to re-charge your batteries

To find out more about shopping in Birmingham, head to visitbirmingham.co.uk

# Gay shopping at Clonezone

**Birmingham is home to one of the country's best gay men's boutiques.**

Clonezone on Hurst Street stocks a wide range of underwear, fetish wear, sex toys, books, DVDs and novelty items

So pop in and pick something up whilst you're at Pride!

BIRMINGHAM pride

Sponsored by Chic

# DANCE ARENA

## Pete Graham | Jamie George
## Rue Jay | Donkie Punch | Hinsley
## Jade Marie | Ash Turner

Dan Harris | Josh Knight | Chunky B | Andre Amore | Amy Banks | Tom Birch
Dan Height | James Silver | Sandi G | Lee Mosen | Beaver | Lino | Mitch P | Dee Jay LJ
Pearce M | Yan | Marcus James | Martin Crich | Larry Han | Joe Campbell

## Saturday 28th May 2016
## & Sunday 29th May 2016
## Midday till Midnight

f Chic Birmingham ♥ @chic_club

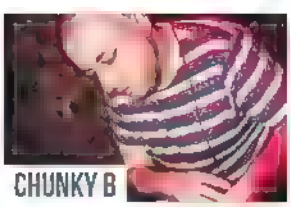
www.birminghampride.com

# Dance Arena
## Saturday 28 May

HEADLINER
## JAGUAR SKILLS

HEADLINER
## K-KLASS

RUE JAY



CHUNKY B

ASH TURNER

JADE MARIE

SATURDAY 28 MAY

**JAGUAR SKILLS**

**K-KLASS**

JAMES SILVER
HINSLEY
MARTIN CRICH
JADE MARIE
& ASH TURNER
RUE JAY
JOSH KNIGHT
AMY BANKS
& TOM BIRCH
DEE JAY LJ
LEE MOSAN
CHUNKY B

For approximate stage timings, visit

or keep an eye on

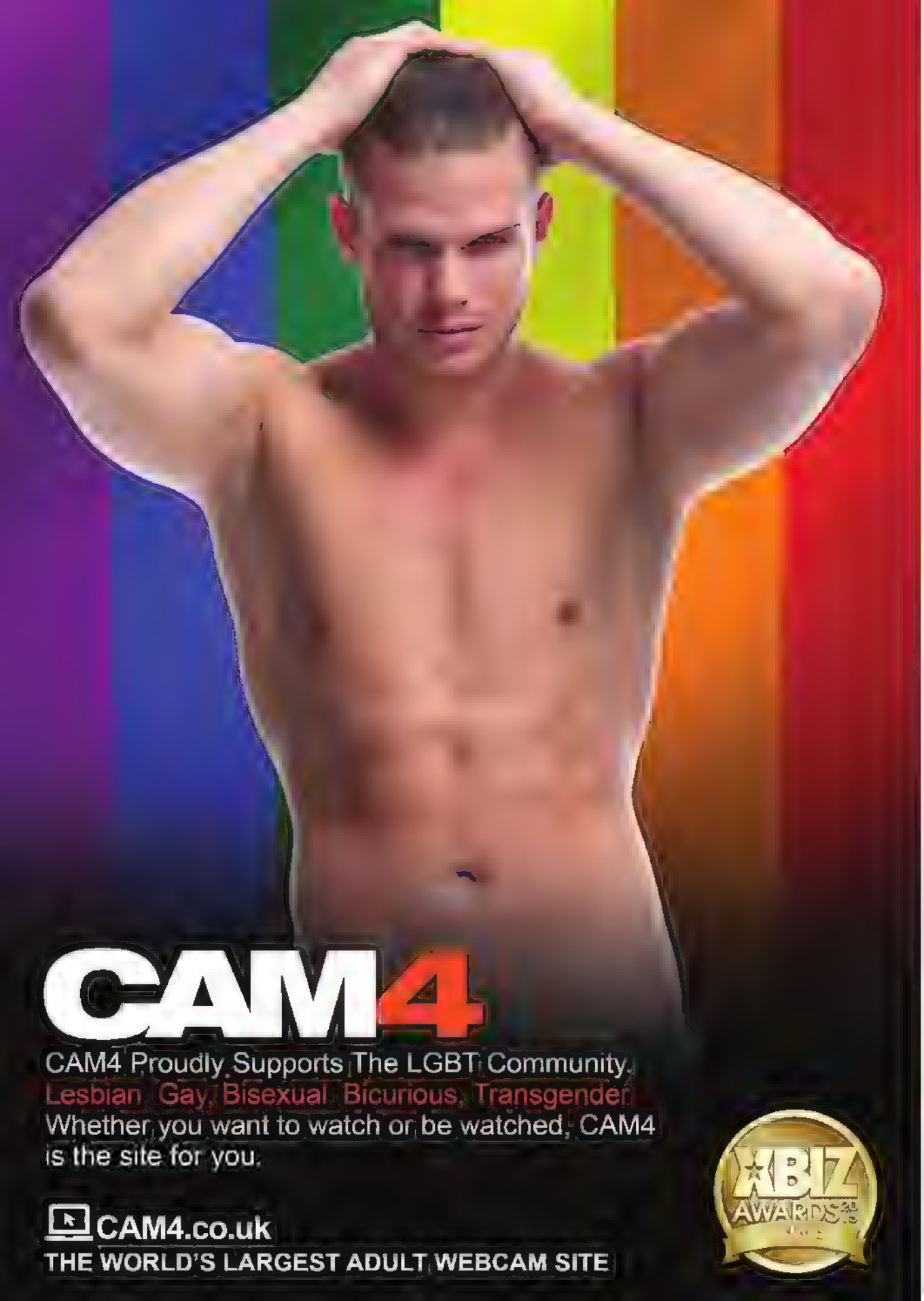
Twitter

throughout the day

The Dance Arena is

organised and sponsored by

Chic


CAM4
CAM4 Proudly Supports The LGBT Community.
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Bicurious, Transgender.
Whether you want to watch or be watched, CAM4 is the site for you.
CAM4.co.uk
THE WORLD'S LARGEST ADULT WEBCAM SITE
XBIZ AWARDS

## Get your puppies out for Pride!

Birmingham Pride's very own Dog Show returns this year on Saturday 28 May, from 1.30pm in the Cabaret Marquee...

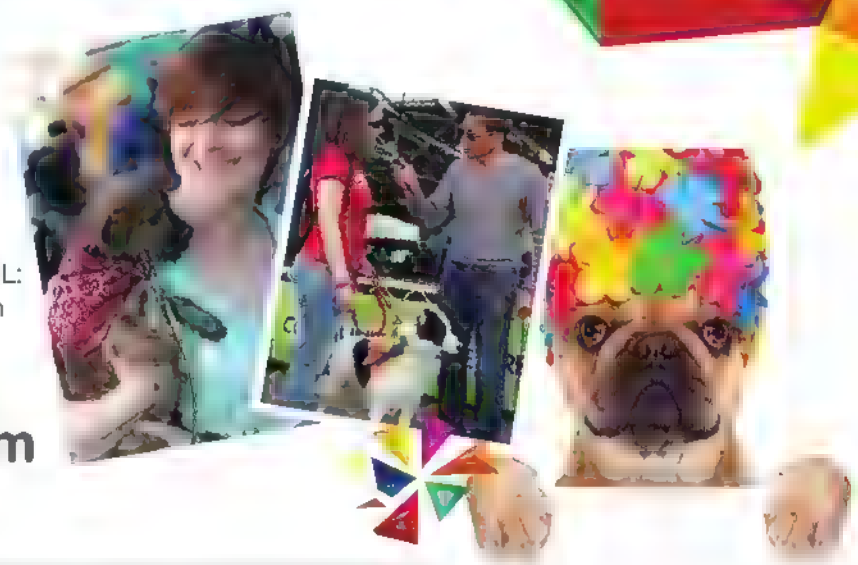
**Best Puppy**
**Best Overall**
**Best Dressed**
**Best Small Dog**
**Best Large Dog**

TO ENTER YOUR DOG EMAIL:
peter@birminghampride.com
by Monday 23 May

Dog Show is sponsored by

manorvets.com

www.manorvets.com
facebook.com/ManorVets



# WIN! Flights for 2 people with Virgin Holidays to NEW YORK!

Yes! Our friends at Virgin Holidays are giving away flights for 2 people to New York staying at the Redbury Boutique Hotel in Chelsea NYC for two nights to take in the New York Pride Parade on 25-26 June 2016!

To find out how to enter our competition check out the details on:

Twitter: @birminghampride
Facebook: PrideBirmingham

CANDYLAND | starlight | FULL MOON PARTY | THE ATTIC PIANO BAR

MICKY LLOYD PROUDLY PRESENTS

LIVE IT UP

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## SATURDAY 7TH MAY 2016

### NOTTINGHAM PRIDE AFTER PARTY
### SAT 30 JULY, 10PM-6AM

MICKY LLOYD WWW.DOWNTOWN64.CO.UK
WELCOME TO THE MIDLANDS BRAND NEW LGBT FRIENDLY
PARTY CLUB NIGHT FOR PEOPLE OF ALL PERSUASIONS

LIVE IT UP
downtown 64
SATURDAY 7TH MAY 2016

**CANDYLAND**

HOSTED BY
MR GARY LOVE COCK
DJS
MICKY LLOYD
PETER MARTINE
LITTLE MISS NATALIE
DJ LOCKLAN

A LARGE COMMERCIAL DANCE FLOOR PLAYING EVERYTHING FROM POP RNB, COMMERCIAL DANCE MUSIC MOVING INTO UPLIFTING VOCAL HOUSE MUSIC THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT USING SOME OF THE BEST LOCAL MIDLANDS DJ TALENT WITH A LONDON TWIST

**FULL MOON PARTY**

HOSTED BY
SOPHIA SUMMERS
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DJ EJ
ABEYANCE
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HOSTING THE SUPERMOON PARTY PLAYING BASS & HOUSE WITH A BIRMINGHAM TWIST

**starlight**

JON WILDE
LEE COX
JODIE PARKER

OUR FUNKY TECH HOUSE ROOM, PLAYING QUALITY UPLIFTING TECH HOUSE MUSIC THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT WITH SELECTED DJ'S FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY BUT ALSO USING OUR HOME TOWN'S QUALITY DJ'S TOO

**THE ATTIC PIANO BAR**

ALEX JENKINS
+ GUESTS

HOSTING THE DOOR WILL BE THE FABULOUS HADRIAN MONROE, RILEY VYRUS AND DEE ZASTERUS. ON THE POLE WILL BE SKYLARK, LISA ELSOM AND STEFFI MOORE AND NOT FORGETTING OUR VERY TALENTED VOCALIST SAM WARD

THE OPENING NIGHT WILL BE A NOTTINGHAM MENCAP FUNDRAISING EVENT
FOR TICKETS VISIT WWW.TKTBOX.CO.UK.
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 07761426274 OR INFODOWNTOWN64@GMAIL.COM

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# Disabled Access

**The organisers of Birmingham Pride wish to make the festival inclusive for ALL and recognise the need for easy access throughout the event for our disabled community. There are various features in place to cater for those with accessibility needs who are coming to Birmingham Pride.**

## ENTERING PRIDE & DISABLED PARKING

Priority entrance and parking for the disabled is situated on Kent Street, by The Fountain Please also refer to the Main Site Map for a larger overview of where this is located

There is also Disabled Parking in The Arcadian Centre on Bromsgrove St in Birmingham

## DISABLED TOILETS

All the entertainment areas have disabled toilet facilities on site At each area, there will be stewards and security guards, as well as general Birmingham Pride staff, who will be able to assist you by pointing out the toilets, and also escorting you through the crowd to reach them, should you require any assistance Outside entertainment areas, there will also be road level disabled toilets available

Just look out for the disabled toilet sign on the Main Site Map on page 12 and 13

## ENTERTAINMENT STAGE ACCESS

There will be ramp access to all of the entertainment areas at Birmingham Pride There is a designated area for disabled viewing situated near the front of the stage within the Main Stage arena

## VENUE ACCESS

There's a huge choice of venue to visit throughout the Pride weekend. All of them have their own accessibility policy. Some offer elevators as well as ramps, disabled toilets and easy access to the outdoor and smoking areas. Please refer back to the Birmingham Pride website for updated information on accessibility at each venue

Alternatively, if there's a particular venue you're interested in, give them a call directly to find out how they can assist you

A full list of venues with contact details can also be found at **www.birminghampride.com**

## FURTHER INFORMATION?

We are constantly looking to improve on our disabled access. Your feedback and suggestions are always welcome, to help us develop this aspect of the festival

Should you have any questions, suggestions or issues regarding accessibility at Birmingham Pride, we'd love to hear from you

Email Peter Wright: peter@birminghampride.com or call the Birmingham Pride office on 0121 622 6034

Box office
**0121 780 3333**
**www.thsh.co.uk**

THSH
TOWN HALL BIRMINGHAM
SYMPHONY HALL BIRMINGHAM

# What's on
# HIGHLIGHTS

To see what's on when, visit **www.thsh.co.uk/whats-on**

Entertainment

## Mammal Hands

**Thursday 2 June**
8.30pm
Hare and Hounds

## Ben Folds & yMusic

**Monday 13 June**
7.30pm
Symphony Hall

## Cyndi Lauper

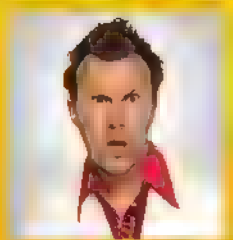
**Wednesday 22 June**
7.30pm
[illegible]

## Sarah Millican

**Saturday 16 & Sunday 17 July & Monday 29 August**
8pm

## Sue Perkins LIVE! in Spectacles

**Sunday 18 September**
7.30pm
Town Hall

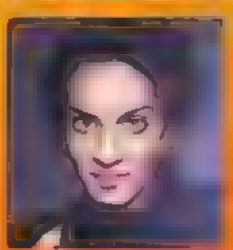


## Jason Byrne

**Sunday 16 October**
8pm
Town Hall

## Nina Conti

**Sunday 30 October**
7.30pm
Town Hall



## Anoushka Shankar

**Thursday 10 November**
8pm

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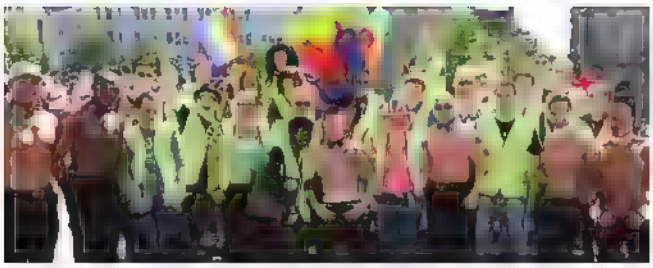

## Can you help and support Pride?

**Volunteering provides people with an opportunity to shine, to make new friends, and also to play a part in ensuring that the Birmingham Pride festival is inclusive and open to all.**

Our Pride Ambassadors scheme has been a huge success in recent years - everyone who gets involved feels a real sense of community and achievement
There are plenty of opportunities to get involved, whether it be as a Parade Steward, a Wheel Marshall, a Registration Volunteer, part of the clean-up crew, or by fundraising throughout the festival
Be part of something that's fun and varied, and show the Midlands how we pull together for Pride

**To volunteer at this year's event, register your interest now by emailing: peter@birminghampride.com**

Have you ever thought of
Fostering?
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on Saturday 28th May
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Staffordshire Buddies
the local HIV charity

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#pridebus20

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Birmingham pride

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## BY BUS

National Express West Midlands provides frequent local bus services into Birmingham city centre from across the West Midlands. To plan your bus journey, visit http://journeyplanner.networkwestmidlands.com/?operator=NXB

See if you can spot the Birmingham Pride coach around the city!
It's kindly sponsored by National Express - our Official Travel Partner.

## FROM THE M6

- From Junction 6 of the M6 follow the signs for Birmingham Central
- Follow the A38 (M) for two miles (signs for the city centre)
- At the end of the motorway, take the flyover signed M5 South West.
- Coming off the flyover, pass under the tunnel following signs for Inner Ring Road South
- Take the next tunnel (Queensway)
- Follow signs for Bromsgrove A38, which takes you to a third underpass.
- On surfacing, get in the left-hand lane, take the 2nd left (Wrentham Street)
  Go to the bottom, take a left then third left
  The Arcadian car park is on your left

## FROM THE M5

- From Junction 4, follow the signs for Birmingham along the A38 through Northfield and Selly Oak
- Going over the traffic lights at Bristol Street (McDonalds on your left) move into the left lane (signed BR New Street)
- Passing the 02 Academy on your left, move into the right hand lane.
- Turn full circle at this roundabout (Holloway Circus).
- Take fourth left (Wrentham Street)
  Go to the bottom, take a left, then third left
  The Arcadian car park is on your left.
  Directly outside the car park is one of the entrances to the Pride site

## FROM NEW STREET TRAIN STATION

- Exit the station onto Stephenson Street (new exit/entrance)
- Walk approx 300 yards to the road junction.

For the Gay Village:

- Take a left at the road junction. Walk down to the traffic lights. Cross straight over onto Hurst Street.
- The Pride site entrance point and wristband exchange is 50 yards after you pass the Birmingham Hippodrome theatre.

For the Parade.

- Take a right at the road junction
- Walk up to the top of Hill Street
- Take a left and Victoria Square is on the right, in front of the Council House

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BIRMINGHAM pride

2016 THEME: A GENERATION OF PRIDE

CELEBRATING OUR 20TH YEAR #PRIDE20

# Please read the following information carefully to get the maximum festival enjoyment...

## Do you have to buy a ticket/wristband to enjoy Pride?

You will need to purchase a TICKET/WRISTBAND to enter the Birmingham Pride festival site. Children under five don't need a wristband but must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

If you don't have a ticket/wristband you will still be able to enjoy the Carnival Parade completely FREE of charge

## Do you have to be gay to attend?

No, you don't! Birmingham Pride is a celebration of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community - but everyone is welcome to join in the celebrations

However, any individuals who're found to have been homophobic or transphobic will be ejected from the Pride site

## Anti-social or homophobic behaviour?

Birmingham Pride operates **ZERO TOLERANCE** towards anti-social or homophobic/transphobic behaviour. We reserve the right to eject anybody from the festival site

## Pride at night from 8pm: 18+ ONLY

After 8pm on both Saturday and Sunday, only visitors who're over 18 will be permitted entry. We operate a Challenge 25 policy - so if you're lucky enough to look under 25, please ensure that you bring appropriate ID.

Anyone who's under 18 is welcome to stay on the site after 8pm - but if they leave the site, they will not be able to gain entry after 8pm

Wristbands will be required for access throughout the night.

## Are children welcome?

We encourage families to attend Pride. Children under 14 must be accompanied at all times by an adult.

Children under five get FREE ENTRY so do not require a wristband. (Maximum of two children per parent or guardian)

## Wristband Information

If you've purchased a ticket prior to the festival, you will need to exchange this ticket for a wristband on the day - please see the Site Map to find out where you should do this

Wristbands must be securely fastened or may be void.

Wristbands must be intact, in one piece, and worn at all times

Torn or ripped wristbands will not be accepted for entry

Lost wristbands will not be replaced under any circumstances - and if you aren't wearing a valid wristband, you will be asked to leave the festival site

Wristbands are not transferable between visitors

Wristbands are required for drink purchases at all venues and outdoor bars within the main festival site

## Can we take alcohol and drinks into Pride?

**No alcohol or glass can be taken on to the festival site**
Sealed plastic bottles of water are allowed. There will be lots of bars and catering within the site

## VIP Tickets

The special VIP Weekend passes entitle the holder to

> Meet and-greet opportunities with selected artists. However, this cannot be guaranteed

> Fast-track entry into the site

> VIP bar at The Penthouse

> VIP main stage viewing area

> VIP cabaret stage viewing area

## Where can we park?

There are three main car parks nearby that you can use over the Birmingham Pride weekend. Please see the map on page 12/13 for their locations. The Arcadian car park and Chinatown car park on Wrottesley Street - operated by APCOA - have discounted 24-hour parking to £10 (normally £50). A special weekend offer, Friday to Sunday or Saturday to Monday, has been introduced for only £20 (normally £40). Car park customers would need to visit the kiosk on arrival and show a wristband or event ticket to get the special rate.

## Where do any profits go?

Birmingham Pride is a very costly festival to stage each year and has over £150,000 of basic infrastructure costs, which is why we charge an entrance fee for the festival

However, Pride is a NOT-FOR-PROFIT organisation, and profits raised go to local LGBT and HIV/AIDS charities and projects

## Disabled Visitors

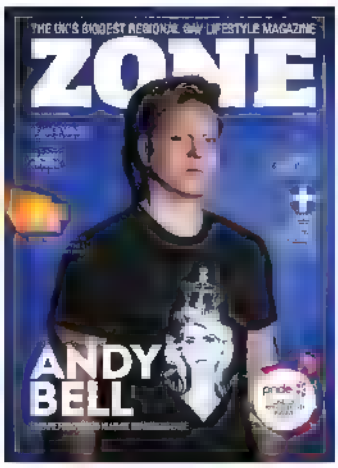
The organisers of Birmingham Pride wish to make the festival inclusive for ALL and recognise the need for easy access throughout the event for our disabled community. There are various features in place to cater for those with accessibility needs who are coming to Birmingham Pride. Visit our website below for further information

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
VISIT WWW.BIRMINGHAMPRIDE.COM

HAVE A SAFE & HAPPY PRIDE!

# PROUD TO BE THE OFFICIAL MEDIA PARTNER TO BIRMINGHAM PRIDE

## EVERY YEAR SINCE 1997!



MIDLANDS
# ZONE

THE UK'S BIGGEST REGIONAL GAY LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

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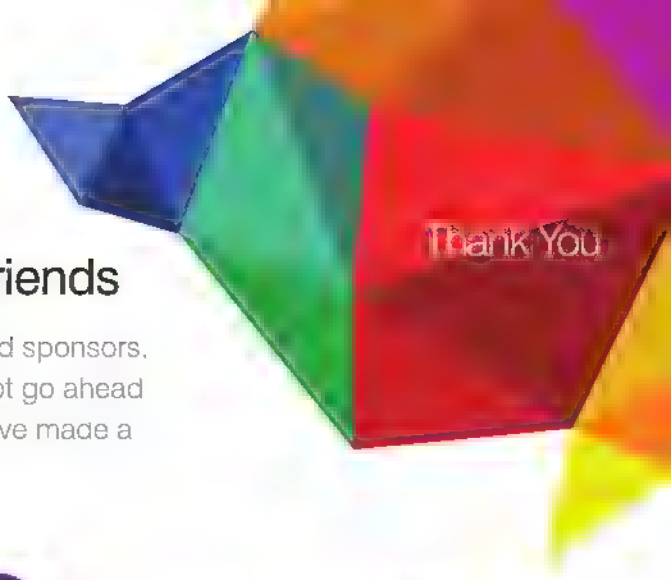


# Sponsors, supporters and friends

A big thank you to all our principal partners and sponsors, without whose financial support Pride could not go ahead and our in kind supporters and friends who have made a significant contribution to this year's festival

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Southside

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# THANK YOU!

**Lots of people have got involved this year. We would particularly like to thank all our volunteers, and also the following people, for helping to make this year's festival not only possible but hopefully the best yet!**

### Supporters & Friends

HSBC
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Southside BID
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APCOA Arcadian Car Parks
Birmingham City Council
West Midlands Police
West Midlands Fire Service
West Midlands Ambulance Service
St. Johns Ambulance

### Charitable Organisations & Support Groups

SIFA Fireside
St Basils
Birmingham LGBT

### Festival Co-Ordinator

Peter Wright

### Security

Mac Clarke
More Secure

### Pride Main Stage

Simon Baker

### Birmingham LGBT Centre Community Programming

Steph Keeble
David Viney

### Cabaret Marquee

Conrad Guest
David Nash

### Dance Arena

Andrew Booth
Warren McLeod

### Women's Area

Andrew King
Hill. Rishworth

### Contractors

Eventmen
Simon Widdowson
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Joe Knight
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Ian Fews
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Adrian Barton
Twenty First Century Media Group
Martin Monahan
Funfair
Tommy Wilson
Symphony Electrical
Ross Deeley

### Events Team/Health & Safety

Joan Durose
Bev Parris
Ron Stretton

### Festival Contributions

AB plus
Acting Out
Barclays Bank
BBC WM
BCC LGBT Employees
Birmingham Blaze FC
Birmingham Bulls RFC
Birmingham Swifts
Capital Radio
Diageo
FLAGS
Labour LGBT
Lip Gloss
Midland Heart
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National Express - West Midlands
Push Project
Rainbow Voices
Someone at the Door
South & City College
Southside BID
Unison
WM Police LGBT Employees
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Monarch Airlines
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University of Wolverhampton LGBT Staff Network Group
Foster Care Association
LGBTory
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Virgin Media
University of Birmingham LGBTQ Association
Stonewall
Birmingham University Students LGBT Society
USDAW
West Midlands Police
British Transport Police
Alzheimers Society
Birmingham Mind
Liberal Stars
Birmingham South Asian LGBT
The Dogs Trust
SIFA Fireside
St. Johns Ambulance
Aston University LGBT Society
Sainsburys
Prism LGBTQ
Nationwide Building Society
Naz and Matt Foundation
Foyles
ASPECS - National LGBT autistic network
Lookers Vauxhall
Birmingham City University Student Union LGBT + Society and BCUSU

### Special Thanks to

John Beard
Ryan Humphreys
Carl Moore
Julia Chance

### Volunteers & Pride Ambassadors

A very big thank you to Keith Perks and his amazing team who have volunteered time to this years festival

**All the gay venues, business owners and managers who have been supportive.**

**Birmingham Pride 2017**
**Spring Bank Holiday Weekend**
**Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 May 2017**
**www.birminghampride.com**

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# A WEEKEND TO BE PROUD OF

Make the most of it with our shops, restaurants, cafés and car parks

Saturday: 9am – 8pm
Sunday: 11am – 5pm
Bank Holiday Monday: 10am – 7pm

THERE ARE MANY SIDES TO
**BULLRING**
BIRMINGHAM

# ZONE hotlist

## THIS MONTH'S HOT EVENTS & THINGS TO SEE AND DO

### 1 IDFB 2016: CARLOS ACOSTA

**Birmingham Hippodrome, Thurs 5 - Sat 7 May**

After an unparalleled career as one of the world's foremost ballet stars, Carlos Acosta presents his final ballet programme. From humble beginnings in Cuba to performing on some of the world's biggest stages, Acosta has had an incredible career.

Part of International Dance Festival Birmingham 2016, IDFB is one of the largest dance festivals in the world and is a major biennial event produced by DanceXchange in partnership with Birmingham Hippodrome.

The festival runs from Sunday 1 May until Sunday 22 May. For full listings, visit www.idfb.co.uk

### 2 CABARET XXL: THAT PAIR

**The Rep, Birmingham, Thurs 5 May**

A sizzling array of award-winning alternative performers will excite and delight you in this regular series of Birmingham cabaret nights. Each month, revel in the chance to experience one of the hottest, brashest and most irresistible performers operating on the cabaret circuit today.

This month sees critically acclaimed duo That Pair perform a part fantasy, part reality-based hour of warped children's entertainment that all adults can enjoy. Their show combines comedy, cabaret and music with stories about their lives as Princess entertainers.

## 4 BALLETBOYZ: LIFE

**Lichfield Garrick**
**Sat 28 May**

An all-male company of 14 incredible dancers, the fresh and inventive Balletboyz return to Lichfield with a brand new show co-produced by Sadler's Wells in association with Artsdepot. Taking a powerful and sometimes provocative look at life and death, the production features work by commissioned by Fonteyn Adberg and Marcos Paulo, as well as an original score written for an ensemble of live musicians.

## 5 BIRMINGHAM CABARET FESTIVAL

**Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, Wed 4 - Sun 29 May**

Birmingham's Cabaret Festival is back for a second year, taking place at the city's Old Joint Stock venue from 4 to 29 May.

Showcasing the cream of the UK's cabaret scene, the festival features the best in variety, cabaret and burlesque

## 6 JOAN

[illegible] Birmingham Wed 11 - Thurs 12 May; Lichfield Garrick Fri 13 May; Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton Joan Trent Fri 6 May

## 7 THE SOUND OF MUSIC

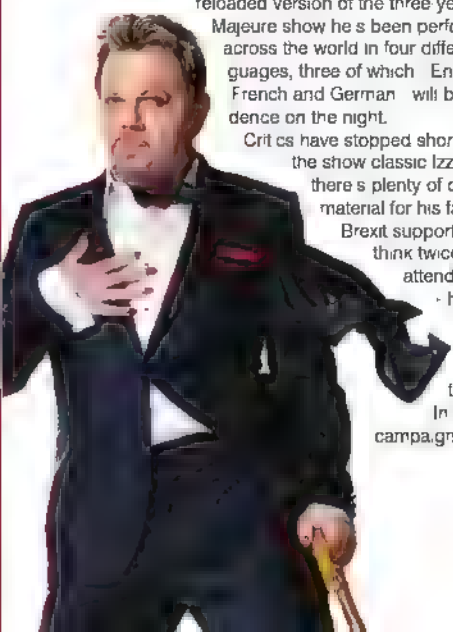
**Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 24 - Sat 28 May; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 31 May - Sat 11 June; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 4 - Sat 8 October**

One of the most popular family musicals of all time, Rodgers & Hammerstein's The Sound Of Music is best known from its mid-1960s film version starring Julie Andrews. It tells the story of the Von Trapp family's World War Two flight across the mountains of Austria, and features hit songs like Edelweiss, My Favourite Things, Do-Re-Mi, Climb Ev'ry Mountain, The Lonely Goatherd, So Long, Farewell, and, of course, the title track itself.

## 8 JULIAN CLARY: THE JOY OF MINCING

**Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sun 1 May; Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Thurs 26 May**

Julian Clary's winning line in saucy postcard humour and innuendo disguises an intelligent sarcasm that digs fun at both himself and his audience. He's here making a welcome return to the Midlands with his latest touring show, an offering which his website promises will be 'a masterclass in camp comedy'.



## 9 EDDIE IZZARD: FORCE MAJEURE

**mac, Birmingham, Mon 23 May**

Eddie's worked a live crowd for more years than he probably cares to remember, building his reputation with material based around skewed logic and surreal tangents.

For this latest visit to Birmingham, he's presenting a reloaded version of the three-year-old Force Majeure show he's been performing across the world in four different languages, three of which – English, French and German – will be in evidence on the night.

Critics have stopped short of hailing the show classic Izzard, but there's plenty of off-the-wall material for his fans to enjoy. Brexit supporters may think twice about attending, though – he's performing the show in support of the Stronger In Europe campaign.

## 10 MARGARET THATCHER: QUEEN OF SOHO

**mac, Birmingham, Fri 6 - Sat 7 May**

This critically acclaimed show has been described as 'a delightful odyssey of gay rights, the '80s and disco'. Taking place on the eve of the vote on controversial anti-gay clause, Section 28, it finds the prime minister lost in London's decadent Soho, where she accidentally becomes a cabaret superstar.

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BIRMINGHAM HIPPODROME

INTERNATIONAL DANCE FESTIVAL BIRMINGHAM 2016

Produced by DanceXchange in partnership with Birmingham Hippodrome, funded by Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council.

Tue 3 & Wed 4 May
Dance Consortium presents
**Nederlands Dans Theater 2**
A unique brand of breath-taking dance to inspire and entertain.

Thu 5 - Sat 7 May
**Carlos Acosta: A Classical Farewell** SOLD OUT

Tue 10 & Wed 11 May
**Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan**
Spiritually evocative movements set to soulful Georgian folksongs on a truly astonishing set

Tue 17 & Wed 18 May
**Dance Sampled**
Fancy trying some tango? What's hot in hip hop? Is ballet just boring? And what is Kathak anyway...?

Fri 20 & Sat 21 May
**Ballet BC**
A stunning triple bill, choreographed by three internationally acclaimed female choreographers.

"Birmingham Hippodrome is going to be one of the most important dance venues in the country."
Sir Matthew Bourne

birminghamhippodrome.com 0844 338 5000
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ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

# That's Entertainment!

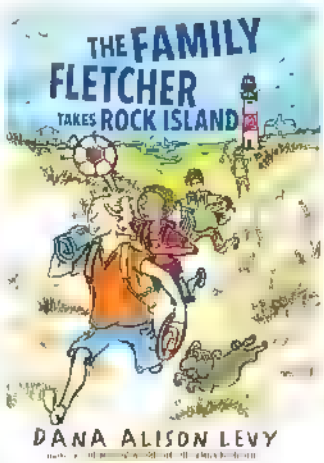
## This month's hot new DVD, music and book releases..

### DVD DADDY (15)

Co n McCormack (BearCity star Gerald McCu louch) thinks he has it a.l a great job. a steady stream of hot, younger guys and a best friend (screenwriter Dan Via) whose devotion he takes for granted But when a charming and mercurial intern (ɔa.me Cepero) sweeps him off his feet Coiin sees a chance for something more - a fam y of his own. What he discovers instead is a shattering secret that may cost him everything and everyone he ho ds dear..

### BOOK THE FLETCHER FAMILY TAKES ROCK ISLAND by Dana Alison Levy

Love the TV show Modern Family? Wait until you meet the Fletcher family! With two dads four adopted brothers. two cats and one pug, the Fletchers may well have you laughing out loud The Fletchers are on Rock Island, home of all the r best summer memories. But from their first day on holiday it s clear that th s year things have changed Their favourite lighthouse is all boarded up, and the Fletcher boys can t figure out why or how to save it. Add a dose of Shakespeare, a very tippy kayak, a video camera, a swimming cat and some new neighbours, and the recipe for a crazy vacation is complete Over the course of the summer the Fletchers will learn that sometimes, even in a place where time stands still, surprises await



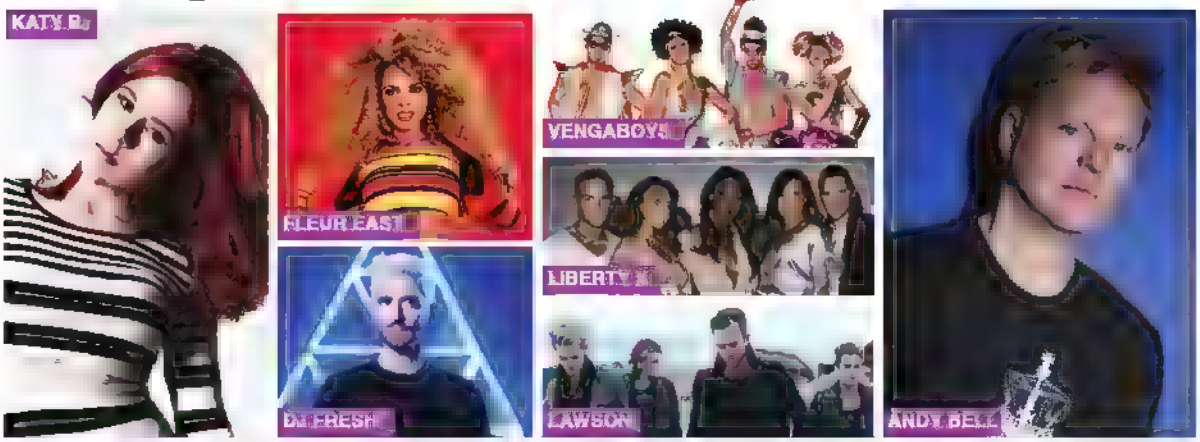
### DVD YOU AND I (15)

Best friends Phil p and Jonas p an a tr p for a photography proj ect. They've only seen each other on a few occasions since their time together in London, so they pack up their Mercedes camper and take off. Phi ip being gay isn t an issue for either of them but when they pick up a hitchhik er named Boris, their friendship begins to fray

### MUSIC STOMP ALL NIGHT by Steps

The Remix Anthology Record-breaking pop phenomenon Steps have always been dedicated to the dance floor And now this CD brings you 37 full-length mixes of classic hits, including Tragedy, One For Sorry and Deeper Shade Of Blue

# WIN! A pair of VIP tickets for Birmingham Pride 2016!




**2 CHANCES TO ENTER**

To enter this **FREE PRIZE DRAW** simply **LIKE and SHARE** the post on our Facebook Page at www.fb.com/PrideBirmingham or **FOLLOW US and RETWEET** the post on Twitter at @BirminghamPride

The competition closes on Monday 16 May 2016

KWIK PRICK

**Kwik Prick** is a free rapid HIV test for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans communities and is available at Trade every Monday from 12 noon until 6pm.

**Kwik Prick**
- Free and confidential
- Uses only a finger prick blood sample
- Result within minutes
- 99.7% accurate
- May detect HIV exposure from as little as 4 weeks ago

TRADE

Drop-in service every Monday*, 12 noon until 6pm.
Appointments can be made for other days.

Location. **Trade, 2nd Floor, 27 Bowling Green Street, Leicester, LE1 6AS**
For more information call us on **0116 254 1747** or visit us at **www.tradesexualhealth.com**

*Kwik Prick is not available on Public Holidays

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Free, confidential health advice, information and support for

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TRADE

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TradeSHealth • The Trade S. Heal...

WHAT'S ON IN YOUR LOCAL GAY VENUES

# OUT

MAY 2016

ALEGRA DIXON

## MARC ALMOND

SOFT CELL FRONTMAN PERFORMS AT BRUM BAR OVER PRIDE WEEKEND

### BFM RETURNS TO BRUM

The popular Birmingham Fetish Men club night returns to the city's gay village

### DRAG IDOL FINAL

La Voix hosts Birmingham's regional Drag Idol final! Who's gonna be the next best Queen?

### XXL: IT'S BACK

The monthly men-only club night returns to Birmingham's Core Club this month

# THE LOFT

# WE'RE EVOLVING

NEW MENU

NEW KRAFT BEERS

NEW COCKTAILS

NEW EVERYTHING

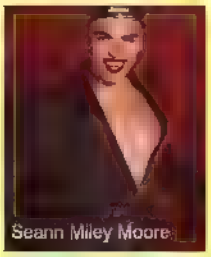
JULY '16

loft.birmingham @loftlounge2 loftbirmingham

43 Bromsgrove Street Birmingham B5 6RG

0121 622 2444

# Marc Almond, Alesha Dixon and more flock to Brum gay venues for **BIRMINGHAM PRIDE** performances



**With Birmingham Pride upon us this month, stars from the world of music and cabaret are flocking to the city to perform at various gay venues!**

The Voice and Liberty X star Kevin Simm, and X Factor stars Andrea Faustini and 4th Impact visit Eden Bar on Saturday 28 May. On Sunday the 29th, the bar welcomes Soft Cell frontman Marc Almond, X Factor winner Sam Bailey and Seann Miley Moore.

The Nightingale, meanwhile, plays host to Just A Little stars Liberty X on the 28th. Alesha Dixon wraps things up at the venue on the 29th.

Check our diary for more great acts across Birmingham Pride.

**VARIOUS VENUES - BIRMINGHAM**

## **XXL PRIDE SPECIAL** at The Core in Birmingham

**Men-only club night XXL returns to Birmingham this month - and it promises to be as good as ever!**

Although usually taking place on the third Friday of every month, the May event has been scheduled to coincide with Pride taking place on Friday 27 May.

The London club night's Midlands event features XXL's resident DJ Christian M, playing the best hits and remixes to get the dancefloor packed.

Oh, and if you fancy it, there's a dark room upstairs!

**THE CORE - BIRMINGHAM**

## **BIRMINGHAM FETISH MEN** returns to Eden Bar

**If you're into fetish wear, then be sure to check out Birmingham Fetish Men at the city's Eden Bar.**

The event, which sees a whole host of men don their leather, rubber or sports wear for the night, is growing increasingly popular.

The dress code is strict - so grab some new gear, get it shined up and prepare for a great night out!

You can also see the BFM guys in the Birmingham Pride parade!

**EDEN - BIRMINGHAM**

## **JOEY ESSEX** meet-and-greet at Wolverhampton's Gorgeous

**Fans of the popular reality TV star Joey Essex are in for a Springtime treat.**

Newly relocated venue Gorgeous in Wolverhampton has announced an exclusive live PA and meet-and-greet session with the oh so-cute Only Way Is Essex and I'm A Celebrity star.

So if you're a fan of Joey's and have been itching to meet him, head down to the venue on Sunday 29 May.

And whilst you're there, you can enjoy a cracking night out too, complete with friendly staff, wonderful partygoers and great music from talented DJs.

**[redacted]**

# MONDAY

May 2 9 16 23 30

## BIRMINGHAM

**2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS** Sunday to Friday All day & night Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
**The Loft Lounge**

**MINISTRY OF POUND** with Dj Mike Emery from 9pm. Selected drinks £1 Open until 2am
**Missing Bar**

**BINGO** Bingo with Queeny
**The Village Inn**

**GIGGLE PRIDE** - *Mon 30 May* - Live comedy with Jen Brister Maureen Younger, Hannah Brackenbury and Lyndsey Santoro
**The Fox**

**SUGAR RUSH** £2 entry.
**Nightingale Club**

**MONDAY MADNESS** Weekly drink with DJ Matt Ha Hou nt 2am Open 10pm-1
**Bar Jester**

**OUTSKIRTS** & 3rd Mond
**Bar Jester**

**POUNDED** Pounded from 6pm on Sidewalk
**Sidewalk**

## WEST MIDLANDS

**FABULOUS** Fun & Games with resident host Marty (The girl who likes to party) *Mon 4 April* - the return of the fantastic Miss Penny! Free admission before midnight and just £3 after
**C.21, Shrewsbury**

**THE MONDAY CLUB** 9pm-5am Student night Everything is £2 (Shots £1) with DJ Lee Edward
**Gorgeous, Wolverhampton**

**CHILL NIGHT** with Kara
**Three Furnaces, Telford**

**GET THE PARTY STARTED** Free admission With Dj Foxy Divi Open 5pm-4am
**Gossip, Stoke on Trent**

**STUDENT NIGHT** Free adm drinks £1.50
**Pink, Stoke on Trent**

## EAST MIDLANDS

**2 TILL 2** Open fr
**The Boston, Northampton**

**DISCO** 7pm-midnig
**New Foresters, Nottingham**

# TUESDAY

May 3 10 17 24 31

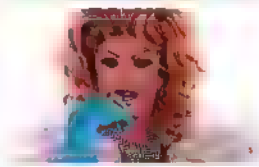
## BIRMINGHAM

**90'S NIGHT** - Every Tuesday night 10.30pm-3am
**Nightingale Club**

**2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS** - Sunday to Friday All day & night Wind down after work with a cocktail or two.
**The Loft Lounge**

**SCREAM STAR SUPERSTAR** - With your host karaoke temptress. Gavina. Party starts at 9pm till late
**Missing Bar**

**OPEN YOUR SNATCH** Songs. Games & Prizes with Miss Penny
**The Village Inn**



**TUNE UP TUESDAY** Fu Jh Baby G Happy Hour unt 7pm
**Bar Jester**

## WEST MIDLAND

**BIG TUESDAY NIGHT PARTY** Quids

**The Lion Bar & Club, Walsall**

**CAMP QUIZ** With free buffet Quiz ams & Supe
**Three Furnaces, Telford**

**Velvet, Worcester**

**FLAUNT** A twist of awesome tune to su everyone
**Brewery Tap Worcester**

**SKYE'S PARTY NIGHT** ess 5pm 11pm
**The White Hart, Wolverhampton**

**TWISTED TUESDAYS** Hosted
**Rainbows, Coventry**

## EAST MIDLANDS

**2 TILL 2** Open from 2pm til 2
**The Boston, Northampton**

**CHILL OUT NIGHT** midnight
**New Foresters, Nottingham**

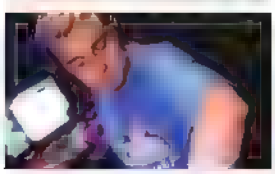
**GAMES NIGHT**
**Dover Castle, Leicester**

May 1 11 18 25

## BIRMINGHAM

**2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS** - Sunday to Friday All day & night Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
**The Loft Lounge**

**2 GOOD 2 MISS** Drinks from just £2 with DJ Mike Emery
**Missing Bar**



**KILLER KARAOKE** - with Charlotte the Harlotte
**The Village Inn**

**2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS** all feathers at Sidew ocktail menu
**Sidewalk**

**DADDY'S DEALS AND FREE POOL** Free Pool Open 7 11pm
**The Fox**

**WACKY WEDNESDAYS** Hosted Halle James with E Hour un 2am O
**Bar Jester**

**WEDNESDAY LINE** Line Danc nign
**The Wellington**

## WEST MIDLANDS

**DISCO & DJ** with Glamr 1am
**Rainbows, Coventry**

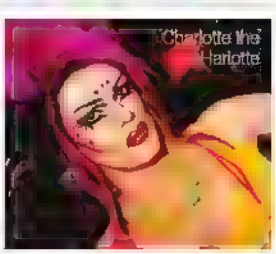
**STUDENT CLUB NIGHT** Live DJs drinks promo
**Three Furnaces, Telford**

**WACKY WEDNESDAYS** Ka James Open 4pm-midnic
**Rainbows, Coventry**

## EAST MIDLANDS

**KARAOKE** 9pm til 3am. £2 drinks from 8pm t. 11pm. Free Entry
**The Boston, Northampton**

**GAMES NIGHT** 2am Drinks from
**New Foresters, Nottingham**




# THURSDAY

May 4 12 18 26

## BIRMINGHAM

**2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS** - Sunday to Friday All day & night Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
**The Loft Lounge**

**CULT** Bringing dirty house back home. Top Floor from 10pm.
**Nightingale Club**

**I <3 THE 90S** From 8pm with DJ Dan Doors open from 2pm
**Eden**

**LA VOIX** *Thurs 12 & 26 May* Britain's Got Talent semi-finalist live on stage at Eden hosting Birmingham's Drag Idol. The final takes place on Thurs 26 May Great vocal talents combined with hilarious comedy make for a great night out
**Eden**

**POUNDED** £5 entry Drinks from a £1 Dj Corey playing chart and dance on whilst Miss Marty and Dj Craig with all the pop and cheese on the middle floor
**Nightingale Club**

**TANGO THURSDAYS** with Marty Happy Hour 12noon-2am
**The Village Inn**

**THROWBACK THURSDAY** £1.20 bombs and great music!
**Missing**

**DROP THE BOMB** Kend ur res
**Sidewalk**

The Cone

## WEST MIDLANDS

**12.01** with Dj James Jevett Open from Midnight until 5am with drinks from £1
**Gorgeous, Wolves**

Big value drinks With Dj
**The Lion, Walsall**

**DISCO & DJ** A night o fun hostess Glamo
**The White Hart, Wolverhampton**

## EAST MIDLANDS

**2 TILL 2** Open from 2pm ti 2am for a quiet drink
**The Boston, Northampton**

# THE BIGGEST GAY
## MONDAY NIGHT IN THE MIDLANDS!

FREE ENTRY BEFORE MIDNIGHT!
10PM-3AM

**MON 2ND MAY**
**TINA SPARKLE**

**MON 6TH JUNE**
**GLITTER LIPS**

# Fabulous

PLUS: HAPPY HOUR FROM 10PM // DRINKS FROM £1 ALL NIGHT!

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2-4-1 COCKTAILS

SUNDAY -FRIDAY
ALL DAY AND NIGHT

loft.birmingham
@loftlounge2
loftbirmingham
0121 622 2444

## BIRMINGHAM

**2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS -** Sunday to Friday. All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
**The Loft Lounge**

**ALL DAY EVERY DAY PRICES** DJ Parm, takes over the weekend by playing the best of club classics, house, R&B and all your favourites. Enjoy all day every day prices too!
**Sidewalk**

**BIG GAY FRIDAY** Party anthems all night long with Missing's Du James. Open until the early hours
**[illegible]**

**SING STAR SUPERSTAR WITH DISCO & KARAOKE** with Du. Nikki
**Eden Bar**

**FREAKY FRIDAY** Big name cabaret at midnight. Open until 6am. ***Fri 6 Apr*** Kara Van Park. ***Fri 13 May*** Ken Whip. ***Fri 20 May*** Glitter Lips. ***Fri 27 May*** Sandra.
**The Village Inn**

**INFUSION** Free Entry. Absolute Anthems and Floor Fillers with DJ Corey. Drinks from £2. £2 entry
**Nightingale Club**

**KICK START** Kick start the weekend from 9pm til the early hours. Hosted by James
**[illegible]**

**L8R** With Charlotte the Harlotte. Open until 6am every Friday
**The Village Inn**

**LIP GLOSS -** ***Fri 6 May*** **-** A night for the trans* community, admirers and friends
**Eden Bar**

**MIDSBEARS -** ***Fri 27 May*** **-** A night for the bear community, admirers and friends
**Eden Bar**

**OLD SKOOL GARAGE** The first Friday of the month sees the Nightingale go back in time, playing some of the best in old skool garage. A night not to be missed
**Nightingale Club**

**SAATHI -** ***Fri 27 May*** **-** Every last Friday monthly. South Asian Gay and Lesbian club night. Bollywood and Bhangra.
**Nightingale Club**

**SING STAR SUPERSTAR** with Du. Nikki every Friday. your chance to win cash
**Eden Bar**

**VINTAGE FRIDAYS** a night of soul, funk, rock, motown, Northern Soul and all the classic favourites
**The Loft Lounge**

**XXL -** ***Fri 27 May*** **-** Men only night with DJ Christian M. Early Bear offers until 11pm. Every 3rd Friday of each month (apart from this month due to a Pride special)
**The Core Club**

**FUNK'D UP** [illegible]
**Club Chic**

**KARAOKE** Com[illegible] to start yo[illegible] weekend
**The Fox**

**RETRO FRIDAY** [illegible]
**Bar Jester**

## WEST MIDLANDS

**YOLO!** Gorgeous residents spinning house and classics. Earlybird drinks from £1.50 with free entry before 11pm. 10.30pm - 5.30am
**Gorgeous Club, Wolverhampton**

[illegible] Cla[illegible] 11pm
**The Lion, Walsall**

**TV FORTY EIGHT** A Me[illegible] for TVs. Cross D[illegible] Admirers. Every Friday nig[illegible]
**The Greenhouse, Darlaston**

**CLUB NIGHT** Drink promos unt[illegible]
**The Three Furnaces, Telford**

**FREE ENTRY FRIDAYS** [illegible] Day open 9pm-3[illegible]
**Rainbows, Coventry**

**FRIDAY SOCIAL** with Du. Paul Gritt & guests
**The Bell, Stourbridge**

**[illegible]** Cabere at 1[illegible]
**The White Hart, Wolverhampton**

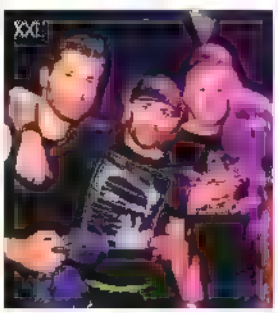
**START THE WEEKEND** F[illegible]
**Pink, Stoke on Trent**

**TFI FRIDAY** A[illegible] [illegible]rrent on a[illegible]
**Brewery Tap, Worcester**

## EAST MIDLANDS

**PINK POUNDER** Every Friday night with Du. Snuckies. £8 entry, £1 drinks. Open 9pm-4.30am
**The Boston, Northampton**

**CLUB NIGHT** [illegible] playing [illegible]
**Hellfire, Leicester**



## BIRMINGHAM

**80S HITS** with DJ Dan from 2am it's back to the 80s
**Eden Bar**

**THE ATTIC** Available for hire. Call the venue for more info 0121 622 4256
**Millennium Bar**

**BIRMINGHAM FETISH MEN - *Sat 7 May* -** Birmingham's biggest and best fetish night. Strict dress code
**Eden Bar**

**BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT** Over 2 floors. 3 DJs. Open til 8am. With DJ Lotty & DJ Richard Moon. With DJ Tonie in The Village Underground
**The Village Inn**

**BIG SATURGAY NIGHT OUT** Every Saturday with loads of drinks promotions
**Nightingale Club**

**CULT** Bringing dirty house back home. Top Floor from 10pm
**Nightingale Club**

**GLITTER LIPS - *Sat 28 May* -** Live cabaret from Glitter Lips
**Glamorous**

**PRIDE SPECIAL - *Sat 28 May* -** Live performances from The Voice winner Kevin Simm, Andrea Faustini, 4th Impact, Danny Beard and Mary Mac
**Eden Bar**

**PRIDE CABARET - *Sat 28 May* -** Live cabaret and two days of non-stop partying
**Millennium Main**

**KARAOKE & COCKTAILS** in The Attic, plus music from across the decades
**Millennium**

**LIBERTY X - *Sat 28 May* -** Live PA from the 'Just A Little' stars, Liberty X
**The Nightingale**

**LBR** With Charlotte the Harlotte Open until 8am every Saturday
**The Village Inn**

**MASON NOISE - *Sat 28 May* -** Live PA from the X Factor's Mason Noise
**The Village Inn**

**SATURDAY SESSIONS** With DJ Simon Baker from 8pm.
**The Loft Lounge**

**SATURS-FACTION** Welcome in the weekend with resident DJ, playing the best of everything
**Sidewalk**

**SWAGGERLICIOUS** Every Saturday night (Room 4)
**Nightingale Club**

**YOUR DISCO NEEDS YOU** featuring the biggest remixes, absolute anthems, dance classics, disco house and commercial with your host Twiggy
**Missing**

**THE BREAKFAST CLUB** E
**Club Chic**

**FABULOUS SATURDAYS**
**The Core Club**

**DJ PARTY NIGHT** Open from 9pm
**The Fox**

**#JUST SAYING**
**Bar Jester**

**KARAOKE** E
**The Wellington**

## WEST MIDLANDS

**SLAG** 10pm-6am. Earlybird drinks from £1.50. DJ Paul Bryant, James Levett & Josh B. Plus weekly guests
**Gorgeous, Wolverhampton**

**BIG NIGHT OUT**
**The Lion, Walsall**

**CLUB**
**The Three Furnaces, Telford**

**BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT**
**Rainbows, Coventry**

**INCLUSION**
**The Bell, Stourbridge**

**OUT TO**
**Pink, Stoke on Trent**

**WEEKLY CABARET**
**The White Hart, Wolverhampton**

## EAST MIDLANDS

**BIG WEEKEND PARTY NIGHT** 10pm t. 6am. Free entry before 11pm. £3 before 1am and £5 after. **The Boston, Northampton**

**CLUB**
**Helsinki, Leicester**



## BIRMINGHAM

**2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS** Sunday to Friday. All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
**The Loft Lounge**

**ALESHA DIXON - *Sun 29 May*** Live PA from Alesha Dixon
**Eden Bar**

**DANNY BEARD - *Sun 1 May*** Live cabaret with the Drag Idol winner
**Eden Bar**

**GAVINA VAGINA - *Sun 29 May*** Live cabaret from Gavina Vagina.
**Glamorous**

**SING STAR SUPERSTAR WITH DISCO & KARAOKE** with DJ Nikki. Every Sunday
**Eden Bar**

**LOCAL CABARET** with Charlotte the Harlotte and friends ***Sun 1 May*** Lola Lasagne and Miss Penny
**The Village Inn**

**LATRICE ROYALE - *Sun 29 May***
Live PA from RuPaul's Drag Race star Latrice Royale
**The Village Inn**

**PRIDE CABARET - *Sun 29 May***
Live cabaret and two days of non-stop partying
**Millennium Main**

**PRIDE SPECIAL - *Sun 1 May*** Live performances from Soft Cell's Marc Almond, X Factor's Sam Bailey, La Voix, Seann Miley Moore and The Fleurettes
**Eden Bar**

**CHILL OUT**
**The Fox**

**SUNDAY IS PLAYDAY**
**Bar Jester**

## WEST MIDLANDS

**JOEY ESSEX *Sun 29 May*** The Only Way Is Essex star heads to Wolverhampton. From 1am
**Gorgeous, Wolverhampton**

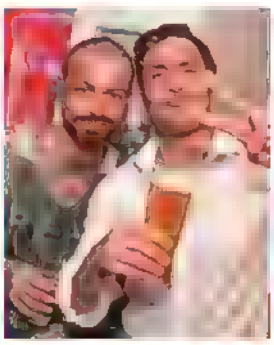
**THE PARTY LOUNGE**
**Lion Bar & Club, Walsall**

**& DJ**
**The White Hart, Wolverhampton**

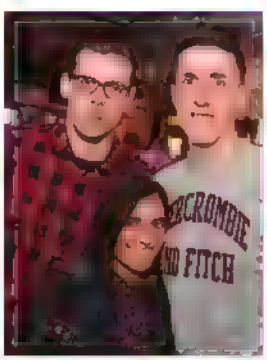
## EAST MIDLANDS

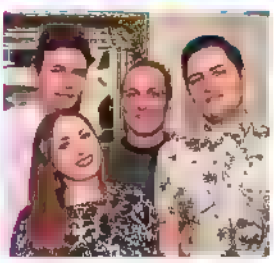
**SUNDAY CLUB** E
**Rainbow & Dove, Leicester**

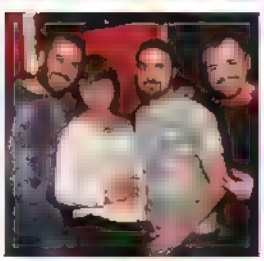
# **Missing**: A great night out at Brum's party bar!

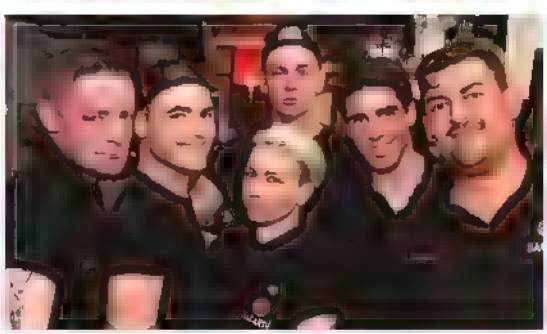


More great photos on **facebook**



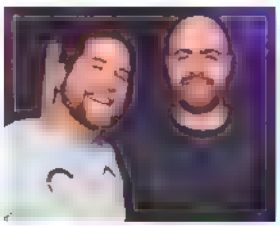







Pictures by Laura Byrne

# **Eden:** Brum's favourite bar for boys and bears!



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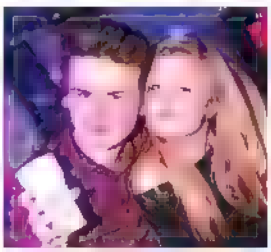
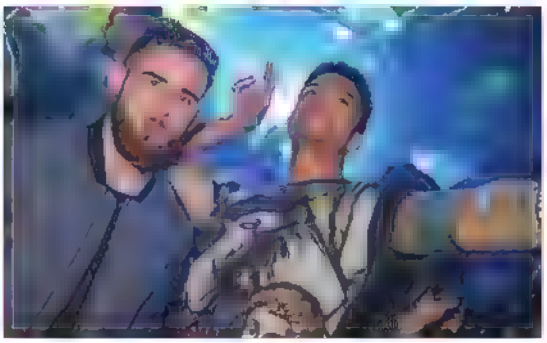
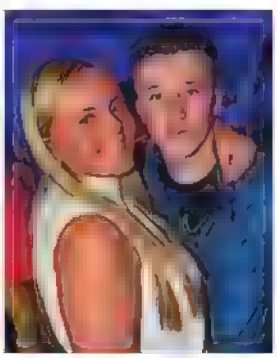
# There's a great night out to be had at **Gorgeous**!





More great shots on **facebook**



Photos from Jonathan Ashworth

Sponsored by COBRA

# SUNDAY 29TH MAY

THE BIGGEST REALITY STAR OF THEM ALL!

UNDER 25?

# JOEY ESSEX

LIVE AT

# GORGEOUS

FROM 1AM

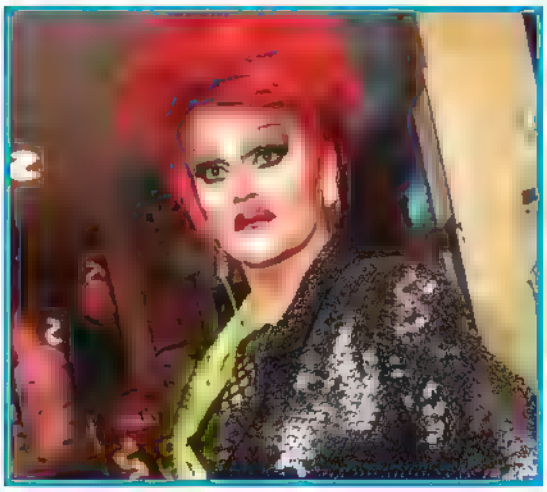
700 CAPACITY | 2 BARS | VIP BOOTHS | EXECUTIVE LOUNGE
STUNNING SOUND & LIGHTING

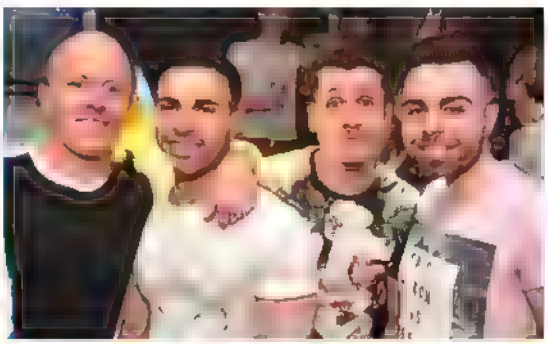
GORGEOUS CLUB | SCHOOL STREET | WOLVERHAMPTON | WV1 4LF | 01902 771122

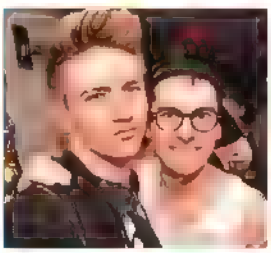
FOR MORE INFO VISIT WWW.GORGEOUSCLUB.CO.UK

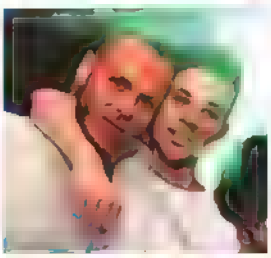
drinkaware.co.uk
for the facts

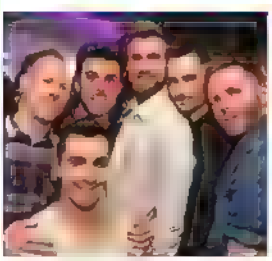
# **The Village Inn**: The bar that parties till the early hours!

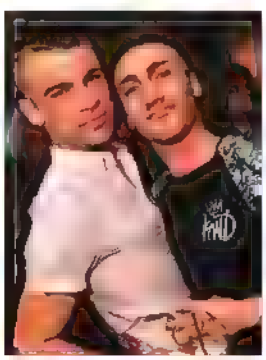










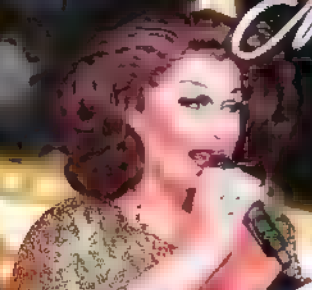


# THE VILLAGE INN

May

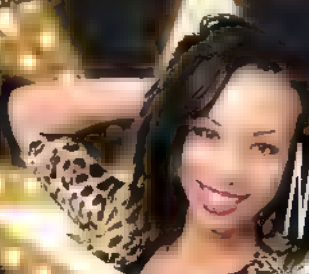
Lola Lasagne & Miss Penny

BANK HOLIDAY SPECIAL SUNDAY 1ST



Kara Van Park

FRIDAY 5TH



NEW

Keri Whip

FRIDAY 13TH

Glitter Lips

FRIDAY 20TH

Sandra

LAST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH

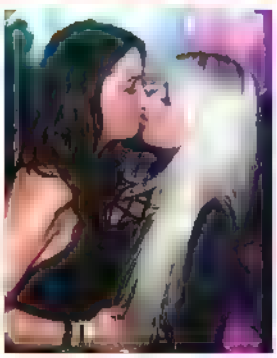
L8R

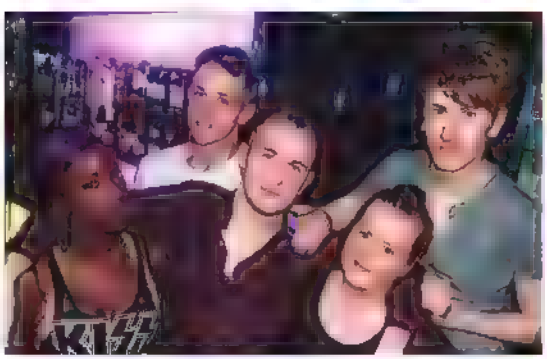
FRIDAY TILL 6AM SATURDAY TILL 8AM

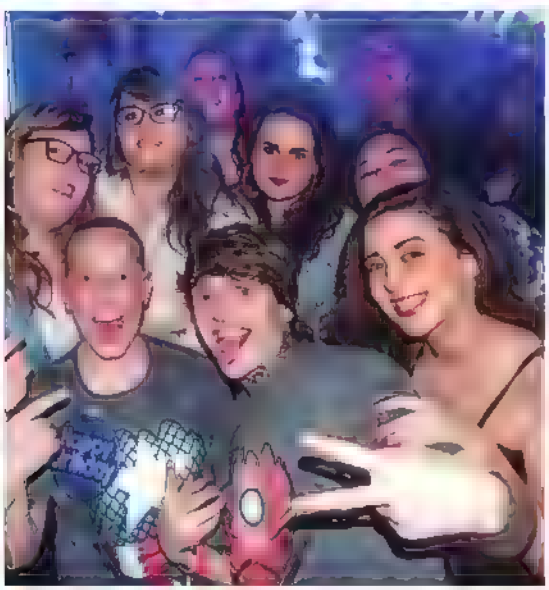
VILLAGEINNBIRMINGHAM @VILLAGEBRUM THEVILLAGEBIRMINGHAM

# **The Boston**: Northampton's biggest gay night out!

More great photos on **facebook**
facebook.com/midlandszone.co.uk







Pictures courtesy of **The Boston**

# THE BOSTON
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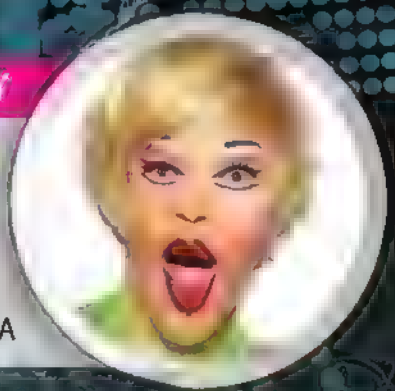
£8 ENTRY, MOST DRINKS ONLY £1.00!
9PM - 4:30AM

//// EVERY SAT NIGHT
THE BIG WEEKEND PARTY NIGHT
Feat. DJ CLINTON P
Dance / House / R&B / Party!
FREE ENTRY b4 11PM, £3 ENTRY b4 1AM
£5 ENTRY AFTER 1AM | 10PM - 6AM

SUN 1ST MAY
OPEN UNTIL 6AM
FREE ENTRY B4 11PM
## BANK HOLIDAY PARTY NIGHT
'HAPPY HOUR' (£2.50) DRINKS FROM 2PM-10PM!
WITH CABARET FROM *'DRAG WITH NO NAME' (MIDNIGHT)*
+ KARAOKE WITH JOEYOKE **(8PM)** & MUSIC FROM DJ CILLA

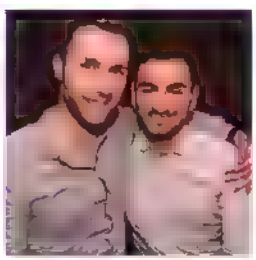
SUN 29TH MAY
OPEN UNTIL 6AM
FREE ENTRY B4 11PM
## BANK HOLIDAY PARTY NIGHT
'HAPPY HOUR' (£2.50) DRINKS FROM 2PM-10PM!
WITH CABARET FROM *'CASSIDY CONNORS' (MIDNIGHT)*
+ KARAOKE WITH JOEYOKE **(8PM)** & MUSIC FROM DJ CILLA

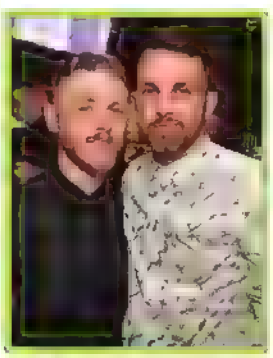


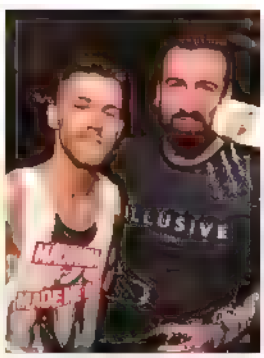
THE BOSTON . COLLEGE ST . NORTHAMPTON . NN1 2QP . 01604 604404
FACEBOOK.COM/THEBOSTONNORTHAMPTON

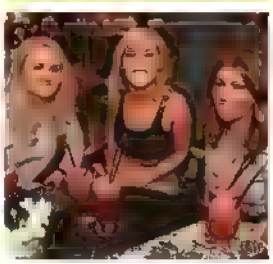
# **The Loft Lounge**: A great place to start your night out

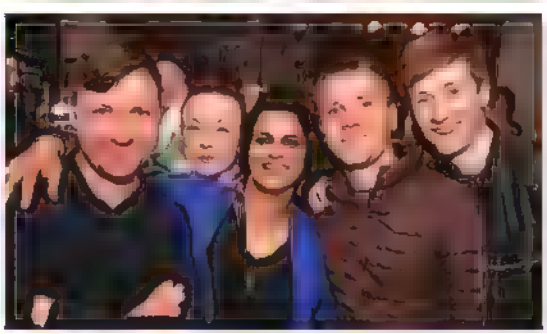
More great photos on **facebook**
facebook.com/midlandszone.co.uk











Pictures by **Laura Byrne**

## Birmingham

### BAR JESTER
Holloway Circus
B1 1EJ
Tel: 0121 643 5344

### BOLTZ CLUB
Lower Essex St B5 6QP
Tel: 0121 666 6868

### CLUB CHIC
28 Horsefair B11DD
Tel: 0121 666 6806

### THE CORE
Sherlock St B5 6NB
Tel: 0121 622 2797
www.thecoreclub.co.uk

### EDEN BAR
Sherlock St, B5 6NB
Tel: 0121 622 1953
www.theedenbar.co.uk
/eden.bar
See pictures on page 115

### EQUATOR
Hurst St B5 6SE
Tel: 0121 622 5077

### FOUNTAIN INN
Wrentham St, B5 6QL
Tel: 0121 622 1452

### THE FOX
17 Lowe Essex St
B5 6SN Tel: 0121 622 3213

### LOFT LOUNGE
142 Bromsgrove St,
B5 6RG
Tel:0121 6222 444
www.theloftlounge.co.uk
/The-Loft-Lounge
See pictures on page 122

### MISSING BAR
Hurst St B5 6N
Tel: 0121 622 4256
www.missingbar.co.uk
missingbar

### THE NIGHTINGALE
Kent St Birmingham
B5 6RD
Tel: 0121 622 1718
www.nightingaleclub.co.uk
/thenightingaleclub

### RSVP (formerly Queer Street)
Hurst St B5 6SE
Tel: 0121 622 2444

### SIDEWALK
Hurst Street,
B1 1EG
Tel: 0121 666 6[illegible]
www.sidewalkbirmingham.co.uk

### THE VILLAGE INN
Hurst St, Birmingham
B5 4BD
Tel: 0121 622 4742
www.villagebirmingham.co.uk
/villageinnbirmingham
See pictures on page 118

### THE WELLINGTON
72 Bristol St, B5 7AH
Tel: 0121 622 2592

## West Midlands

### COVENTRY

#### RAINBOWS
Short St Coventry
Tel: 02476 551739

### GLOUCESTER

#### THE WESTGATE
Westgate Street
GL1 2NF
Tel: 01452 690645

### KIDDERMINSTER

#### ROYAL EXCHANGE
31 New Road DY10 1AF
Tel: 01562 228619

### LEEK

#### VALIANT
3 Stanley Street ST13 5HG
Tel: 01538 382812

### SHREWSBURY

#### C21 CLUB
Abbey Foregate
SY2 6AE
Tel: 01743 271821
www.c21bar.co.uk
/C21Nightclub

#### THE PEACH TREE
21 Abbey Foregate
Tel: 01743 355055
www.thepeachtree.co.uk
/ThePeachTreeRestaurant

#### SPIRIT
22 Abbey Foregate
SY2 6AE
Tel: 01743 271821
www.spiritchampagne.co.uk
/SpiritShrewsbury

### STOKE-ON-TRENT

#### GOSSIP
4 Hope Street
ST1 5BT
Tel: 01782 204957

#### PINK
93 Stafford Street
ST1 1LS Tel: 01782 272772

### STOURBRIDGE

#### THE BELL
20 Market St DY8 1AG
Tel: 07826 518478

### STRATFORD upon AVON

#### NO7
Prowd Crowd 1st Mon
monthly 7 Windsor St
Tel: 07787 642510

### TELFORD

#### THREE FURNACES
30 Bridgnorth Rd
Madeley TF7 4JB
Tel: 01952 586521

### WALSALL

#### THE LION
Bridge St
WS2 8NG
Tel: 01922 610977

#### THE RED LION
Park St WS1 1NN
Tel: 01922 6[illegible]9

### WOLVERHAMPTON

#### BOND STREET TAVERN
14 Bond St WV2 4AS
Tel: 01[illegible]825 305050

#### GORGEOUS
[illegible] WV1 4LF
Tel: [illegible]
gorgeousbar

#### THE WHITE HART
Worcester St
WV2 4LQ
Tel: 01902 423998

### WORCESTER

#### THE FLAG
50 Lowesmoor
WR1 2SG
Tel: 01905 780467

#### VELVET CLUB
Angel Row
WR1 3QN
Tel: 01905 20218

## East Midlands

### DERBY

#### THE CROWN INN
40 Curzon St
DE1 1LL
Tel: 01332 381742

### LEICESTER

#### DOVER CASTLE
34 Dover St LE1 6PT
Tel: 0116 255 3052

#### HELSINKI
94 Rutland St LE1 1SB
Tel: 0116 254 7568

#### RAINBOW & DOVE
185 Charles St LE1 1LA
Tel: 0116 254 7568

#### SLOANES
3-5 New Walk, LE1 6RL
Tel: 0116 255 2220

#### VENOM
(YOLO) Gay every Wed
Belgrave Gate LE1 3GR
Tel: 0116 251 7986

### NORTHAMPTON

#### THE BOSTON
College St NN1 2QP
Tel: 01604 604404

### NOTTINGHAM

#### NEW FORESTERS
St Anns St NG1 3LX
Tel: 0115 958 0432

#### THE NEWMARKET INN
38 Lower Parliament
Street NG1 3BA (Gay
Friendly)

#### PROPAGANDA
8 Broadway NG1 1PS
0115 979 9183

## BIRMINGHAM VENUES

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## Arts Groups

**ACE** A Choir of Equality. Meets every Thursday 5.30-7pm. Tel: 01902 425092

**ACTING OUT** An acting group for the LGBT community, open to anyone. Contact acting.out@btinternet.com or visit: www.actingout.org.uk

**ARTPRIDE** Art group. Contact beckytebbett@hotmail.com

**BARDS & BOOKS** Reading group. Every 1st Monday monthly. LGBT Centre B'ham. e:hadenshouse@hotmail.com

**BGSO** Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra. Contact: info@bgso.org.uk or visit: www.bgso.org.uk

**DUDLEY LIBRARY LGBT READING GROUP** 1st Friday Of Every Month. Tel: 01384 815560

**GAPP** (Gay and Performing Proudly) Birmingham. Call: Mike 07545 507791

**LEICESTER POETRY OPEN MIKE NIGHT** Meets last Tues monthly at The Red Tent. Tel: Bobba 07777 692881

**LEICESTERSHIRE RAINBOW VOICES** LGBT choir. Meets every Tues in Leicester. Call: Chris on 07740 855248

**LGBT READING GROUP** Every 3rd Wednesday monthly 7pm. Tel: Jayne 01902 552060

**JOURNEY FILM GROUP** LGBT Film group meets every 1st & 3rd Tuesday monthly. www.journeyfilmclub.co.uk

**RAINBOW SPIRIT** Creative activities for gay men. Call: Jon: 07974 477206

**RAINBOW VOICES** LGBT choir. Call: Carolyn 07828 647384 or Steve 07813 025990

**SMETHWICK LIBRARY** LGBT Reading Group. 1st Monday monthly @ 5.45pm. Tel: 0121 558 0497

**UNTOLD STORIES** LGBT History project in Leicestershire & Rutland. e: dennis@leicesterlgbtcentre.org

**WALSALL LGBT BOOK CLUB** 1st Sat monthly. 11am Walsall Central Library. Contact: Kim 01922 653121

## LGBT Social

**ANOTHER WAY** LGBT Social group meets in Walsall every Saturday. 12.2pm. Village Hub, Caldmore, Walsall. Tel: 07475 942929

**BROTHERHOOD** Group for anyone transitioning from Female to Male (16+). LGBT Centre, Leicester. Call: Dennis 0116 254 7412

**BRUM BI GROUP** Meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm at the HGL drop in. Tel: 07532 385760

**BRUM DINING OUT** Meets at a different restaurant each month. e: brumdiningout@hotmail.com

**CORBY LGBT NETWORK** Friendship, socialising and information exchange. 3rd Wed monthly. 7.30pm. www.corbylgbt.co.uk

**COVENTRY LADS** social group away from the scene. Call: 02476 229292

**DE MONTFORT LGBT SOCIETY** Based in Leicester. www.dmulgbt.co.uk

**DERBYSHIRE CC** Employee Network. www.derbyshire.gov.uk/councilequalities/employee_network/lgbt

**DERBYSHIRE REACHOUT** Men's Social Group. Tel: 01332 207704

**DOSTI** South Asian men's group, Leicester. Call: 0116 254 1747

**DUDLEY GAY & BISEXUAL MEN'S SOCIAL NON-SCENE GROUP** 2nd Sat monthly. Free buffet lunch provided. Call: Matt Barlow 01384 243220

**THE EDWARD CARPENTER COMMUNITY OF GAY MEN** Call: 08703 215121. Birmingham contact: 0121 551 3161

**EVERGREEN** LGBT Social Group in B'ham. Tel: 07749 412269

**FAN** LGBT Social Events Group. Northants. www.fannorthants.co.uk

**GAY CLASSIC CAR GROUP** Call: Simon on 0121 565 4166

**GAYMEZ** LGBT Games Night in Wolverhampton. Twice monthly. Thurs 8-10pm. Tel: 01902 425092

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE** Gay & Lesbian Community Social group meets every Thurs @ Gloucs Centre 7.30. Tel: 07050 627273

**HEREFORD LGBT** Gay Men's Drop-In The Health Centre, Gaol Street, Hereford. No appointment necessary

**HIGH 5 GROUP** Social Group for men affected by HIV in Leicestershire. Tel: 0116 254 1747

**I:ME** Group for BME LGBT people in Wolverhampton. 2nd Sunday monthly. Tel: 07817 548802

**LADS CAFE** Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin. Call: 01952 221410

**LADS CAFE** Weekly gathering for Gay & Bisexual men in Wolverhampton. Every Monday 6-9pm. Tel: 07788 673666

**LAVENDAR MOVEMENT** Planting flowers for all to enjoy. Meet every Tues e: thelavendarmovement@gmail.com

**LEICESTER GAY GROUP** Call: Pete on 0116 291 6138

**LEICESTER LGBT CENTRE CAFE** Leicester. Call: 0116 254 7412

**LGBT PARENTS** Network for LGBT parents. www.lgbtparents.net

**LGBT SHREWSBURY** What's happening in Shrewsbury. lgbtshrewsbury.co.uk

**LGBT STAFFORDSHIRE** Stoke on Trent. Meets every Wed at The Observatory, Hanley. www.gaystoke.org.uk

**NUBIAN RAINBOW** Celebrating black LGBT people in the community. West Midlands Social Group. Tel: 0121 446 1086

**OUT EVERYWHERE** Bringing people together since 1995. Call 08450 060050

**PINK SOU'WESTERS** South West B'ham LGBT Group. Offers non-scene social events and activities. Call: 07976 274271

**QUIZ NIGHT** 1st Wednesday monthly 7pm @ Gorgeous, Wolves. Tel: 01902 425092

**SANDWELL** Gay & Bisexual Men's Social, Non-Scene Group. 4th Sat monthly. Free buffet lunch provided. Call: Matt Barlow on 01384 243220

**SHREWSBURY CHILL OUT MONDAYS** 1st Mon monthly at Old Market Hall Cafe Bar, 5.15pm, Shrewsbury

**SOUTH ASIANS LGBT** 'Finding A Voice' Social Group in Birmingham. Meet once a month at B'ham LGBT Centre. Call: 0121 643 1160

**THIRD WAY** Social Group for Bi people over 18. Every 3rd Tuesday monthly in Wolverhampton. 7.9pm. Tel: 01902 425092

**TRUE COLOURS** Derby based BME LGBT Social group. Call: 07779 560284

**WAGS** Walsall Activities Social Group. Over 18s only. e: sgawwalsall@hotmail.com

**WARWICK PRIDE** Social society. Organises events on and around the University Campus. e: hello@warwickpride.org

**WORCESTER LGBT NETWORK** Community Group. www.brewery-tap.org.uk

**WS-MIDLANDS LGBT** Social group. Every 1st Tues monthly 7.9pm in Walsall. Tel: 07895 661557

## LGBT Forums

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL EMPLOYEE NETWORK** Formed in 2002. Email: bccigbt@hotmail.com

**BIRMINGHAM LGBT COMMUNITY TRUST** campaigning and lobbying, promoting community cohesion and representing LGBT community's views. e: daveviney@bigbt.org

**BIRMINGHAM LGBT COMMUNITY TRUST FORUM** For LGB Groups. Quarterly Forum open to all LGB groups for networking. e: daveviney@bigbt.org

**BLACK GAY & BISEXUAL MEN'S DISCUSSION FORUM.** A safe discrete confidential space for black men to discuss issues that affect their lives. Call: 0121 446 1086

**GAY BIRMINGHAM REMEMBERED** LGBT history project. e: dave@gaybirmingham.remembered.org.uk

**LEICESTER LGB & T CENTRE** Most numerous social groups. Call: 0116 254 7412

**LGBT WOLVERHAMPTON** To raise and develop the profile of the Wolves LGBT community. Tel: 01902 425092

**MIDLANDS LGBT EMPLOYEES NETWORK** Call: 02476 492711

**NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE** Gay Men's Drop-in. Call: 01782 425969

**PINK SHIELD** Working to make Birmingham a safer place for the LGBT Community. Tel: 0121 622 2592

**RAINBOW HERITAGE** Nottinghamshire. Call: 0115 934 8485

**TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH** Holds events for professionals and the LGBT community. Tel: 0116 254 1747

## Mature Groups

**EMBRACE** Group for gay and bi men in Coventry aged over 50. Rainbows Coventry. Call: James on 07824 448717 or Nichola on 02476 231999

**LADS LUNCH** Monthly lunch for mature Gay & Bisexual men in Wolverhampton. 3rd Sat monthly 11am-2pm. Tel: 01902 425092

**LGBT 50+** Social group for mature LGBT people. Contact 01752 201251 or ask@staffordshirebuddies.co.uk

**MATURE GAY GROUP** Meets in Shrewsbury every Friday. 11am - 1pm. Call: Trevor on 07779 861640

**MATURE GAY MEN** For older gay bi men. Call: Tom or Paul on 0746 399 2196

**OLDER LADS CAFE** Weekly group for mature (over 40) Gay and Bi-sexual men in Wolves. Every Monday 1-4pm. Tel: 01902 425092

**OLDER LBQ** Women's network social group, Derby based. Call: 07779 560284

**RUBY'S** A mature lesbian & bisexual women's group. Tel: 01902 425092

**SILVER SIP-PERS** coffee morning for people aged 50+. Call: 0116 254 7412

**STOKE OLDER PERSONS GROUP** Social group for mature LGBT. Tel: 01782 266998

## Religious Groups

**BIRMINGHAM BUDDHIST CENTRE** Meditation Drop-in classes. Tel: 0121 449 5279

**BIRMINGHAM L.G.C.M.** Christian Organisation group. Tel: 07943 010345

**CHANGING ATTITUDE** Contact: The Revd Colin Coward on 01380 724908

**DERBY QUEST** for Spirituality. Sun 5-6.30pm. Tel: 07970 812957

**JOURNEY METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH** Birmingham. Call: 0121 454 4406. Wolverhampton. Call: 07734 155664

**LEICESTER GAY CATHOLICS** A group for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people, their families and friends. Call: 07905 421915

**LESBIAN & GAY CHRISTIANS** Lesbian and gay Christian movement. Tel: 0121 453 1299 or tel/text 07943 010345

**QUAKER** Lesbian & Gay Fellowship. Social and supportive group founded on Quaker spiritual principals. www.qlgf.org.uk

**QUEST LINKLINE** A national, helpline service for lesbian, gay and bisexual Catholics. Tel: 0808 808 0234

**RAINBOW MOOT** LGBT Pagans. All Pagan paths welcome. Call: Rob 07943 323989

**STAFFORDSHIRE LESBIAN AND GAY CHRISTIANS.** Support group for lesbian and gay christians. e.iana2910@hotmail.com or call 07974 7647

## Sport & Fitness

**BIRMINGHAM BLAZE** LGBT Friendly Football Team. www.birmingham-blaze.co.uk

**BIRMINGHAM BULLS** LGBT friendly Rugby Team. Call Andy 07708 536416 or visit birminghambullsrfc.com

**BIRMINGHAM SWIFTS** LGBT running group meeting weekly. For more information visit www.birminghamswifts.co.uk

**BOURNVILLE LADIES HOCKEY CLUB** LGBT friendly hockey in south Birmingham. www.bournvillehc.co.uk

**LEICESTER WILDECATS** LGBT friendly football team. Call or text Gareth 07825 581938

**LGBT** Community Indoor Football, Wolverhampton. Tel: 01902 425092

**LGBT TABLE TENNIS CLUB** 1st & 3rd Wed monthly 7-8.30pm. Tel: 0121 643 0821

**LGBT** Zumba, Wolverhampton. Tel: 01902 425092

**GAY OUTDOOR CLUB** Walks twice a month on Sundays. Contact gocwm@yahoo.co.uk

**MIDLANDS OUT BADMINTON** Birmingham. Call Andy on 02476 346141

**MOSELEY SHOALS** Birmingham's GOC Gay Swim Group. For info call 0121 346 1522

**NOTTINGHAM LIONS** Gay football team founded in 2006. www.nottinghamlions.com

**OUTDOORLADS** Outdoor pursuits group for gay lads. www.outdoorlads.com

**STOKE PANTHERS BADMINTON SQUASH CLUB** Call: Andy on 01782 266998 5167

**WOLVES WALKERS** Tel: 01902 425092

**WOLVES WARRIORS** Football Club. Tel: Andy on 07825 305050

## Student Groups

**BIRMINGHAM CITY UNI LGBT** Social, events every week. www.bculgbt.com

**LGBT & FRIENDS SOCIETY** University of Derby Students' Union. www.udsulgbt.com

**LGBT ASTON UNIVERSITY** Tel: 0121 204 3000

**STUDENT GROUPS** Leicester University. contactdmulgbt@outlook.com for DMU and James at js762@student.le.ac.uk for University of Leicester

**UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM LGBTQ ASSOCIATION** Social events every Wednesdays & Sundays. e: lgbtq@guild.bham.ac.uk

## Women's Groups

**BIRMINGHAM GIRLS** e-mail network. e: Birmingham Girlsnetworksubscribe@yahoogroups.co.uk

**BIRMINGHAM GIRLS BOOK GROUP** Women-centered book group. Meets 1st Sun of the month 3-5pm. Tel: 0121 622 3213

**BI WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP** For information contact Bobbie at space318808@hotmail.com

**BOOTWOMEN.** Walks in the Midlands area. Call: 07505 970991

**BORDER WOMEN** Network for lesbian and Bi women. www.borderwomen.net

**L:BOW ROOM** Social Group for women over 18. Meets every 2nd & fourth Wednesday monthly. Tel: 07817 548802

**FOX FILM CLUB** Women-centred film club, every 3rd Sunday monthly. www.foxbar.co.uk

**KIDDERMINSTER GIRLS** Lesbian social group

**DO YOU NEED TO GIVE YOUR LGBT COMMUNITY GROUP BETTER EXPOSURE?**

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Do you need to feature your group? contact Ryan Humphreys (Editor) on 01743 281722

**To find out more about all these organisations, their website**

To get your LGBT Group listed: Call Adrian Parker on 01743 281714

meets bi-weekly at local pub e illygaiore@blueyonder.co.uk

**OLDER LESBIAN GROUP** for the over 40's meets every 2nd Saturday of the month at 1pm at 10 Norton Tower. Contact on-sue@hotmail.co.uk

**RUBY'S** Mature Women's Group, Wolverhampton. Tel: 01902 425092

**RUBYFRUIT WOMEN** Leicester based non-scene social group for lesbian, bisexual and questioning women of all ages. Wednesday nights from 7pm. Tel: 07512 156474

**THE PINK LINK** is a social space in Staffordshire for women with a different vision. Call: 01782 266998

**WORCESTER LESBIAN GROUP** Meets twice monthly. e me_myself_79@outlook.com

## Youth Groups

**1ST OUT YOUTH GROUP** Leicester LGBT Centre, 15 Wellington Street, Leicester. Call Paul Foxon on 0116 254 7412

**DERBYSHIRE LGBT** Youth Forum. Tel: 01332 207704

**GALAXY** Group for lesbian, gay and bisexual young people aged 18 and under in Stoke on Trent and North Staffordshire. Call 0300 123 0970

**I-MIX** Group for young LGBTQ people in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin. Call: 01952 221410

**INSIDE OUT** (Sandwell) A youth club for LGBT and questioning young people and their friends. Tel: 0845 352 1276

**OUTBURST** Nottingham Support group for LGBT young people. Tel: 0115 952 5040

**OUT CENTRAL LGBT** youth group for young people 13-19 who are LGBT or questioning their sexuality. Call 07826 873458

**OUT EAST** Youth group based in Sutton Coldfield. Tel: 07795 611781

**PRISM LGBTQ** Support group for young people in Coventry. Info@prismlgbtq.org

**SHOUT** (Sandwell) An LGBT youth steering group which works towards giving LGBT young people a voice in Sandwell. Tel: 0845 352 1276

**UNIQUE** Group for young LGBTQ people. Meet twice monthly on Sundays. Call Matt or Justin 01384 243220

**X2Y** Group for young LGBT people in Wolverhampton. Every Saturday. e info@x2y.org.uk

## HIV AIDS Helplines

**ABPLUS** A Charity supporting people living with and affected by HIV. Call 0121 622 6471

**FRESHWINDS HOUSE** Holistic care and support for people with life threatening illness. Tel 0121 415 6670 (8 lines)

**HEALTHY GAY LIFE - BIRMINGHAM** Free confidential service working with Gay, Bisexual men to promote sexual, mental and social health and well-being. Tel: 0121 440 6161

**LEICESTERSHIRE AIDS SUPPORT SERVICES** Tel: 0116 255 9995

**STAFFORDSHIRE BUDDIES** Confidential help and support for people living with or affected by HIV. Tel 01782 201251

**SUMMIT HOUSE SUPPORT** Practical Support and confidential advice around all HIV/AIDS related issues in the Dudley / Sandwell borough. Tel 01384 243220

**TERRENCE HIGGINS TRUST** Offer a range of services for those infected and affected by HIV and STIs Birmingham: 0121 694 6440
Solihull: 0121 694 6440
Coventry: 02476 229292
Nottingham: 0115 882 0121
Telford: 01952 221410
Wolves. 01902 711818

**TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH** Offers a range of confidential services advice and support for LGBT communities affected by HIV & STIs. Leicester Tel: 0116 254 1747

## LGBT Helplines

**COVENTRY & WARWICK SHIRE FRIEND** Tel: 02476 714199

**DERBYSHIRE LGBT SWITCHBOARD** Tel: 01332 349333

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTEGRATED RESPONSE PROJECT** Leicester. Tel: 0116 255 0004

**GAYLIFE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE** Tel: 0300 123 0970

**HATE CRIME NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE** Talk to a Hate Crime officer in complete confidence Stoke area. Tel 01782 266998 (Loleita Higgins) North Staffs Tel: 01785 233456 (John Wilson)

**LBG COUNSELLING SERVICE** Free counselling service for all sorts of LGB related issues. Call: 01782 425969

**LGBT AA MEETING** West Midlands. 8pm every Sat. Summit House, Dudley. Tel: 01384 243220

**LGBT STAFFORDSHIRE** Stoke on Trent & North Staffs Tel: 01782 266998

**NOTTINGHAM LESBIAN & GAY SWITCHBOARD** 0115 934 5485 or text 07481 344040

**RAINBOW SUPPORT, HEREFORDSHIRE** free and confidential support Call 07507 447834

**TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH** Offers counselling services and one to one support for LGB communities Leicester. Tel: 0116 254 1747

**VICTIM SUPPORT** Provides emotional support and practical help to anyone who has been a victim of crime. Tel: 0300 303 1977

## Sexual Health

**BIRMINGHAM LGBT CENTRE** Support Groups, Sexual Health Testing, Cafe, Community Groups, Events and more. Tel: 0121 643 0821

**THE BRIDGE CENTRE** Shrewsbury. A free sexual health service for gay and Bisexual men. Tel: 01743 344474

**BROOK BIRMINGHAM** Free and confidential sexual health services in the West. Tel: 0121 248 2500

**DUDLEY GAY MEN'S PROJECT** Free & Confidential support service for gay, bi-sexual and MSM men living in or around Dudley. Call: Matt Barlow 07980 906895

**HAWTHORNE HOUSE** Sexual health testing also operates a Walk In Service every morning from 9.30am - 11.30am. Tel: 0121 424 3300 or 0121 424 2456

**HEALTHY GAY LIFE** Birmingham: Free confidential service working with Gay, Bisexual men to promote sexual, mental and social health and well-being. Call 0121 440 6161

**HEREFORD SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC @ GAOL STREET** Open Monday - Friday. Call 01432 378915 for appointments and walk in times

**HIV FAST TEST** Free 20 minute HIV testing in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin. Call: 01952 221410

**HIV TESTING** by appointment at Summit House, West Bromwich. Call Matt Barlow on 01384 243220 or 0121 500 5205

**KWIK PRICK** Rapid HIV Testing, Leicester. Call: 0116 254 1747

**LGBT SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE** Free services for the LGBT community who work or reside in South Staffs. Tel: 01782 201251

**MEN ONLY** Sexual Health Clinic at Heroes Health Club, Stourbridge. Call Matt 07980 906895

**MEN'S HIV FAST TEST CLINIC** Free 20 minute testing in Nottingham, 1st Monday monthly. Call: Adrian on 0115 883 9081

**OUTMINDS** A social support group for gay and bisexual men with mental health problems living in the Solihull borough. Call 0121 742 4941

**SANDWELL GAY & BI MEN'S SERVICE** Sexual health and social support. Call: Matt Barlow 07980 906895

**THE RAINBOW PRACTICE** Every 1st & last Wednesday of the month. Held at The Gay Men's Drop-in. Call: 0300 123 0970

**TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH** Offers a range of confidential services for LGB&T individuals and support for HIV & STIs including testing services. Leicester. Tel: 0116 254 1747

**WALSALL GAY MEN'S HEALTH PROJECT** Delivering health and social care services to the LGBT community. Tel: 01922 613141

**WHITTALL STREET** A sexual health clinic located in Birmingham city centre. Tel: 0121 237 5700

**WORCESTERSHIRE GAY MEN'S HEALTH Project** providing free, confidential advice & support. Tel 01905 681751

## Support Groups

**ABplus** Poz Gay Men's Group. Meets 1st Thursday monthly for information and support. Call: Peter on 07960 404926

**ALCOHOL & DRUGS SMART** Recovery SMART meetings in a friendly environment. e smartbigbt@yahoo.com

**BIRMINGHAM PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP** Meets 1st Wednesday Bi-monthly in Solihull. Tel: Helen on 0121 711 8106

**BEAM** (Black ethnic & Asian Minority) Social and Support Group in Leicester. Call 0116 254 7412

**COVENTRY & WARWICKSHIRE FRIEND** gay, lesbian, bisexual or trans? Need to talk? Call 02476 714199 Mon - Fri 7.30pm - 9pm

**CHANGES** Based in Wolverhampton. Call: Ilsa on 07864240222 or Maria on 07542 450163

**DOSTI** South Asian men's support group, Leicester. Call: 0116 254 1747

**GROUP ONE** Derby based support group for LGBT families. call: 07779 560284

**HGL COUNSELLING & PSYCHOTHERAPY** Mental and sexual health, for lesbians, bisexuals, gay men and trans people with a choice of male or female counsellors. Tel: 0121 446 1065 or 07976 919481

**HGL MARRIED MEN'S GROUP** Support and advice for married men. Call: 0121 440 6161

**HIGH 5 GROUP** An HIV awareness group for gay/bisexual men who are affected by HIV. Group provides Support, events, outings. Leicester. Tel: 0116 254 1747

**HIV MEN'S GROUP** Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin. Call: 01952 221410

**HIV WOMEN'S GROUP** Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin. Call: 01952 221410

**INFORMAL ONE TO ONE SUPPORT** A service for young men: south Asian men and African Caribbean men. Tel 0121 440 6161. Email. info@hg.nhs.uk

**LEICESTER LGB&T CENTRE** Host numerous support groups. Call: 0116 254 7412

**LGBT ALCOHOL SUPPORT GROUP** Offer support to anybody in the gay community who has alcohol related problems. Tel: Tony on 0121 440 6161 or 07760 195642

**LGBT NETWORK** Stoke on Trent & North Staffordshire. Tel: 01782 266998

**LGBT NETWORK** Wolverhampton. Holistic support for LGB&T people in the Black Country. Tel: 01902 425092

**LGBT COUNSELLING** Wolverhampton. Tel: 01902 425092

**LGBT PROFESSIONALS** in Wolverhampton. Meets once a month. Tel: 01902 425092

**MIND OUT** Mental Health Support Group in Wolverhampton. 1st and 3rd Wednesday monthly. Tel: 01902 425092

**NATURAL HEALING** For emotional and physical health. Contact Alison Lesbian Homeopath. Tel: 01902 688087

**NEW ROAD PARENTS** Bromsgrove and surrounding areas. Supporting parents of LGBT people. Meets bi-monthly on the 1st Tue. Tel: Margaret 01527 832492

**PINK PARENTS** A social networking group for all lesbian and gay parents and their children. E: pink parents@virginmedia.com

**RANK OUTSIDERS** Support group for LGB armed forces personnel - past & present. Helpline: 0870 740 7755

**RAPE & SEXUAL VIOLENCE PROJECT: BIRMINGHAM** Free confidential counselling for LGBT survivors of sexual, domestic violence and hate crimes. Tel: 0121 643 0301

**SANDWELL** Gay & Bisexual Men's Drop-in Service. Every Friday. Tel: 01384 243220

**SWAIN Wyre Forest** Meets the first Wednesday monthly. For more details phone Tel: 07842 070 240

**TIME OUT COUNSELLING** Coventry. For all LGBT+ people. Tel: 07936 525668

**WORCESTER LGBT NETWORK** Tel: 01905 429800

## Trans Support

**LEICESTER BUTTERFLIES** for info visit facebook.com/groups/butterfliesleicester/

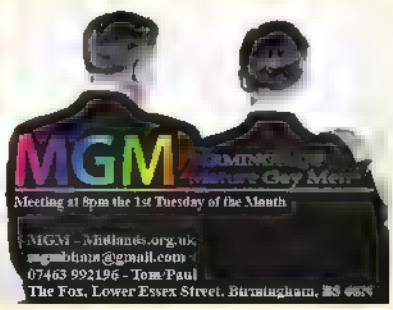
**OUTSKIRTS TRANS-GENDER SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUP** The West Midlands largest transgender social support group. Email sally@outskirtstg.co.uk or visit www.outskirtstg.co.uk

**SANCTUARY** Providing support and practical help. Tel: 01902 744424

**SANCTUARY STOKE** Support people who are Transsexual, Transvestite or Transgender in North Staffs. www.gaystoke.org.uk

**TRANS SOUTH STAFFS** Support and monthly group for the whole Trans community. Tel: 01782 201251

**TRANS SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUP** Meets every 1st and 3rd Monday monthly. Tel: 01902 425092


MGM
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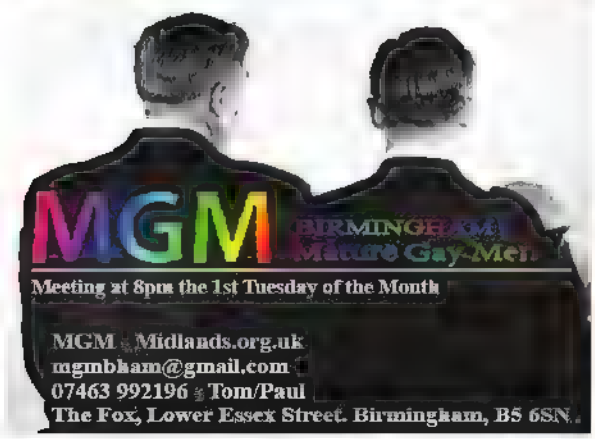

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Birmingham, B23 7SH
spartanhealthclub.co.uk

**SPLASH SPA & LEISURE**
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South Leicester, LE1 3JR
splashleisure.co.uk

**UNIT 2**
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Lower Essex Street,
Birmingham, B5 6SN
unit2sauna.info

CELTS
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celts-sauna.co.uk

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Tel: 01332 209150
citysteam.co.uk

CITY STEAM 2
Tel: 0115 959 8603
citysteam.co.uk

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Tel: 01384 442030
heroeshealthclub.com

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Tel: 01623 422257
manzfields.co.uk

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# THE LIFE OF A THIRTYSOMETHING GAY
by Stephen Spinks

## A moment of divine inspiration

**'What you into?'**
**It starts, as always on Grindr, with nothing very imaginative.**
**'Anything', I venture, almost too bored to write back whilst sat in Missing; but this guy is cute and I'm like a dog on heat, craving attention. It's been a while.**
**'Shit on me'. And there it was. No airs, no graces, but a shit-filled slap around the face. I knew this was going to be the future. A seemingly shit-filled future at that. Fuck, what's wrong with people? Did this cute, 24-year-old, newly qualified solicitor really want me to shit on him? I wasn't on Recon, after all.**
**Romance, I decided there and then, was officially dead.**

I'd been off the scene for five years. I'd had a dream that my 'perfect' relationship was going to last, like that of the handsome Tom Ford and husband Alexander John Buckley. I'd had a dream that we would have two beautiful kids and a house that even Ina Garten would bitch-fight me for in the Hamptons. I'd had a dream... until that moment when we discovered each other behind a tree on that well-trodden cruising ground at Stonebridge. My trousers down, cock being serviced by a fit hipster 10 years my junior, proved to be a bit of a relationship killer - as did my partner's regular cottage threesome. As the 'perfect' relationship (or so our friends often thought) inevitably imploded and custody over the dog was bitterly fought, I found myself back on the scene, single but this time full of stomach-wrenching dread. It was the kind of dread that reminds me of being the last kid selected for the PE football team. Or of the time I got a hard-on in the school showers and spent the next three years beaten and bruised, because everyone who I'd hoped hadn't seen, had indeed seen.

At 33, I felt old. A has-been. A fake. The days of shimmying down Hurst Street into Route 66 with my pink sisters to the pumping tune of Air's Sexy Boy, a double JD and coke always in hand and a gaggle of guys to command, felt like something from a bygone age. The excitement of piling out of the bars onto the Subway bus that would whisk you over to the arches, only for us to dance into the early morning, moving between the camp tunes of the top floor and the club remixes of Moloko's Sing It Back in the basement, was now nothing more than a half-heady popper-filled memory.

Sat in Missing, the guys around me looked like kids: Eighteen, more confident, beautiful and sassy than I'd ever been, with guys my age fluttering around them like moths to a flame, only to get burned each and every time. The role I had once played, now in reverse. I was no longer in command, and the whole spectacle felt macabre. I knew I had to do something. I was no longer in this family. I was alone and felt like shit. So off I went, walking the streets and looking for divine inspiration - or better still, someone who wanted me in that raw, masculine kind of way that I was aching for. And suddenly, there it was - like a mecca to everything that holds gay culture dear. The Fountain Inn loomed out from the corner of Wrentham Street, the door latch daring me to tug on it. I felt sick. I could feel the nostalgic JD I had just downed rising up inside me. Fuck it, I remember thinking, and that was that. The door opened, that intoxicating smell of real men, beer and old carpets hit me, and a sea of curious eyes assessed me, pulling me into the warm embrace of those within.

That night, I found solace in the arms of a hairy bear, with whom I enjoyed some of the best conversation I'd ever had. He made me feel like the most important person in his world, and gave even better head than the hipster at Stonebridge.

Let's face it, with age comes experience and wisdom - oh, and a special kind of confidence. Not the confidence of youth, generated by a desire to fit in, but rather a confidence that comes from having seen all this stuff before. These guys have worked through their own shit and now know themselves better than anyone else knows them. They've exorcised their ghosts.

For the first time in years, I belonged again. That night, I learned more about myself than I ever thought I could. A year later, here I stand; a confident, rounded professional, with a love of kinks and saunas, as it turns out! But that's another story...

So you see, there's something to be said about shit after all. People shit on you from time to time, even if they're polite enough to ask permission beforehand. But actually, sorting out your shit and finding the real you can open up a world that's not only intoxicating and empowering, but also liberating. Step out beyond your self-imposed boundaries and you might just find something far more exciting. I'm most certainly not looking backwards. Are you?

# ON THE BALL
with Steve Ball

## I Spy

**However rewarding or not our jobs are, many of us have fantasies about doing something different.**

**About 10 years ago, in what I now regard as a James Bond moment, I applied to MI5 to be an intelligence officer. But my application turned out to be more Mr Bean than 007 when, due to a mix up, I turned up at the wrong place to complete my assessment tests and was inadvertently sent to an office where two MI5 staff were discussing the work of another agent.**

**After 10 minutes of sitting quietly in the corner, I spilt my glass of water all over the desk and had to admit that I was in the wrong place and was simply there to complete my application tests. They were horrified and hastily redirected me to a nearby hotel, where I completed - and spectacularly failed - the exam.**

**The UK is no doubt a safer place without the benefits of my creative approach to counter terrorism, and the security services have one less gay man than they might otherwise have had.**

The intelligence services now rank as the best place for LGBT people to work, though this was not always the case. Robert Hannigan, boss of the UK intelligence agency, told a recent Stonewall conference that not letting gay people work for GCHQ until the 1990s was wrong and was the nation's loss. He added that his organisation relies on people who 'dare to be different'.

He told of a former spy who was forced out of the service on suspicion of being gay and had urged him to apologise. "I am happy to do so today," he said, "and say how sorry I am that he and so many others were treated in this way right up until the 1990s, when the policy was rightly changed."

Hannigan spoke about their suffering being the nation's loss because we cannot know what gay intelligence officers could have gone on to do and to achieve. He said that they hadn't learned the lessons of Alan Turing, the gay code breaker whose story was featured in the 2014 film, The Imitation Game, starring Benedict Cumberbatch. Turing was arrested in 1952 for so-called 'gross indecency', and was chemically castrated and prevented from code cracking. He took his own life in 1954, having eaten an apple laced with cyanide, and was awarded a posthumous royal pardon in 2013.

When even the notoriously homophobic intelligence services are now named the UK's most gay-friendly employer, it reminds us all of how attitudes have changed.

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SATURDAY 23RD JULY

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TICKETS FROM THETICKETSELLERS.CO.UK

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